VALLEY VOICE

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Hanford's Mussel Slough Mystery Persists

City denies HEAT's appeal of Bajun American Properties apartment complex

Catherine Doe

Part two in the series of "who filled in Mussel Slough" was projected to be the City of Hanford's response to the running controversy. When the Valley Voice reached out to Darlene Mata, Community Development Director, she politely said, "the city has no comment."

Several hypotheses surround the question of who ordered the back hoe to fill the remnant of Mussel Slough close to West Lacey Boulevard by Lowes. The overriding feeling in town has been that it is a continuation of the conspiracy to fill in the historic Mussel Slough without obtaining the proper permits and environmental reviews.

Other feedback from longtime Hanford residents to the June 18 *Valley Voice* include, "Based on the facts, it is reasonable to infer that the serial filling of Mussel Slough and other sloughs within the city could not have occurred without the knowledge of city staff and consultants for the applicant. Those with possible knowledge of the projects in question include the city manager, community development director, public works director, city attorney, city consultants and other city staff.

As such, developers may fail to file proper notices and applications with the State agencies that have jurisdiction and issue permits for projects that effect sloughs and other riparian habitats. While the city's motivation for failing to provide proper oversight and permit referral may not be known; it is clear that this behavior is often repeated."

HEAT APPEALS SITE PLAN REVIEW

The City of Hanford approved the Bajun American Properties Site Plan Review and the Negative Declaration on June 1. The city publically filed the approved site plan, and notified Hanford Environmental Awareness Team's lawyer, on June 2. There is a 10-day window in which one can file an appeal. Because the apartment complex does not comply with many of the conditions on the site plan review HEAT filed an appeal.

HEAT handed in their appeal along with the $1000 appeal fee the morning of June 12. Mata checked with the city's attorney and informed HEAT that they were one day late. The clock for filing an

SLOUGH continued on **9 »**

Another example of an unpermitted altering of Mussel Slough. This picture shows the aftermath of the clearing of all flora and fauna on a remnant of Mussel Slough by the Lowes on Lacey Boulevard. The habitat is supposed to be left undisturbed unless the permission is granted by the Department of Wildlife. The clearing happened sometime this year.

REO Speed Wagon lead singer Kevin Cronin, pictured with Susan Welch and Roslind Smith, takes time out before the band performs at the Fox Theater to support the pro-goat movement. Welch said that he was "dumbfounded that miniature goats were not legal in Visalia."

Urban Farmers for Food Freedom Fights for Fowl

Catherine Doe

The Urban Farmers for Food Freedom (UFFF) has finalized their initiative and will be submitting their paperwork to the City of Visalia next week. The Food Freedom initiative states that a maximum of 12 food-producing animals will be allowed per residence. Those 12 animals could be composed of no more than eight fowl and four miniature goats. Pot-bellied pigs were taken out of the initiative since UFFF's last meeting. Fencing and animal enclosures are also addressed in the initiative.

Once the draft initiative is submitted, Mike Olmos, Visalia city manager, has 10 days to do an impartial review and write a summary. In order to save the city money, Olmos may opt to negotiate with the UFFF a compromise that everyone could live with. The measure will have a fairly easy path to the ballot, and if it qualifies for the June ballot, will cost the city approximately $120,000.

If all sides can agree on the language of a new household animal ordinance, small farm animals may be legal in Visalia as soon as this fall. The ordinance would also have to be approved by the Visalia City Council. Gingi Freeman, chair of UFFF, is of two minds about negotiating. She would like to bring her two goats home as soon as possible for the health of her daughters and because the goats are due to give birth in September. But she would also like to have the satisfaction of a food freedom initiative go up for a vote.

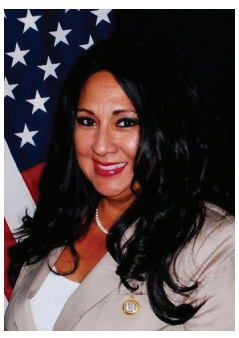
If the city decides not to negotiate with the UFFF, the group will start the process of gathering signatures in mid-July. To get on the June ballot the UFFF needs to get 7,200 signatures. This equals 15 percent of those Visalians who voted in the last election. For the November ballot, they need 4,800 signatures, which represents 10 percent of the voters. Either way, everyone involved is confident the

FOOD FREEDOM continued on **8 »**

Public Calls for Grand Jury Investigation of Lindsay City Council

Dave Adalian

The political disquiet continues to deepen in Lindsay, with residents now asking for a Grand Jury investigation of city council action in the wake of the resignation of city manager and public safety chief Rich Wilkinson in June.



Ramona Villareal-Padilla

The current upset began in August of 2014, when fired Lindsay police lieutenant Bryan Clower filed a wrongful termination suit against the city, alleging he had been improperly dismissed from his position in February of that year. Those allegations became much more serious in April of this year, when Clower claimed in a deposition three of the city's council members had encouraged him to file the suit in an apparent effort to remove Wilkinson.

According to his sworn testimony, Clower said he was approached separately by Mayor Ramona Villarreal-Padilla, Mayor Pro-Tem Rosaena Sanchez and Councilman Steve Mecum, and was encouraged by all three to file the lawsuit, which is still ongoing. The trio, Clower alleged, hoped the suit would allow them to fire Wilkinson with cause, thus avoiding paying the former head of city operations a hefty severance package guaranteed by his contract with the city.

Villarreal-Padilla, Sanchez and Mecum have denied Clower's accusations of wrongdoing, and the city has filed a counterclaim against Clower. Clower's deposition also alleges he was assured there would be no

LINDSAY continued on **5 »**

House Water Bill Introduction Praised

Staff Reports

The June 25 introduction of H.R. 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015, is welcome news for the people of the parched State of California and the Central Valley. Authored by Congressman David Valadao (CA-21), the bill is a regional, collaborative, and bi-partisan effort that will ease the water supply issues plaguing communities, schools, farms, farm laborers, and the people of California. California Representatives Ken Calvert, Jim Costa, Jeff Denham, Doug LaMalfa, Kevin McCarthy, Tom McClintock and Devin Nunes also deserve special recognition for their attention to the water needs of the State of California and for their efforts as co-sponsors of this legislation.

"We applaud the efforts of Congressman Valadao, Congressman McCarthy, and many others in their bi-partisan effort to address a California water supply system that is clearly not in balance," said Dan Vink, of the South Valley Water Association. "HR 2898 is a wonderful first step, and we encourage the Senate to take similar action to continue the debate and take eventual action to provide tangible benefits to all of

WATER continued on **8 »**

Due to the ongoing **historic drought**, the State has mandated that Visalians reduce water usage by **thirty two percent**.

32%

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Striking One Banner, Raising Another

My wife wanted me to write about the evils of artificial grass--astroturf--as a replacement for the real thing in this time of drought. Nah. But I will begin with something equally fake--the notion that the stars and bars represents Confederate culture and history, and is symbolic of the valor of that side's soldiers. It seems to me that the resurgence of that flag coincided specifically with and in opposition to the Civil Rights Movement. The flying of it is, therefore, an overt demonstration of racism.

Of treason, too, and--let's face it--more like as not of idiocy.

Don't get me wrong. I'm a history buff, and I love artifacts almost as lessons in themselves. When I look at an historic object, I am filled with a kind of reverence. There is, too, that bit about remembering history so as not being condemned to repeat it. The stars and bars, then, has its place--cemeteries, museums and Civil War battlefields--and that place necessarily is the past. It's past improper for that flag to wave over any public space whatsoever.

And it's past time it came down. The Civil War ended in 1865, making the United States something one refers to--for 150 years now--as "is" instead of "are." The Confederate flag is fundamentally divisive. Just imagine Germany--had it not declared neo-Nazism illegal--flying the swastika, however sporadically, over government buildings until the year 2095. It's unthinkable--not least because of the evil it represents--but more basically because Germany lost the war.

So did the Confederacy.

And so did all those who would deny to a segment of our population the rights marriage confers upon each wedded couple in this country. Because the June 26 Supreme Court decision was about more than the right of same-sex marriage--it ensured marriage equality.

Up runs the Rainbow banner! Now, I cannot claim to understand homosexuality--I remain, if quotidian, straight. But here's the rub: There is no requirement for understanding when it comes to tolerance. Tolerance and understanding, in fact, can be mutually exclusive.

Still, as my grandmother so often admonished me not to, let's not rest on our laurels. Let's not, in our victory now, forget that although Roe v. Wade made abortion legal nationwide in 1973, 40 years on it is a service in some red states becoming increasingly difficult to access. The Supreme Court seems to have sat on its hands while the right has pulled all manner of legal tricks, closing those clinics the mad bombers couldn't destroy. And now--in response to marriage equality--the state of Mississippi has floated the notion of not issuing marriage licenses to anyone at all.

Will we be dealing with this settled issue until 2055--if not beyond? It is no great leap to picture a future landscape where, sure, one's existing same-sex marriage is recognized--but prospective same-sex couples might have to travel hundreds of miles because there are only a handful of authorities who would marry them.

I say: Enough! Let's let settled issues be settled. It's not as if we've fixed everything else and can luxuriate in niggling. There is an infrastructure that needs attending to. There is a power grid that needs modernizing. There is climate change and global conflict which need coming to grips with. There are people who need to be fed, housed, educated and cared for, medically speaking. The list is practically endless. Abortion rights and marriage quality are settled hash.

I wish President Obama had mentioned something to this effect in his magnificent eulogy of the Reverend Clementa Pinckney, which he delivered only hours after the Supreme Court handed down its landmark marriage equality decision. My wife didn't agree with me, saying that it was neither the appropriate time or place.

I think it is always the time and place to speak out, if only because all these issues are intertwined. The striking of the Confederate flag is merely the furtherance of a discussion we've been having that's lasted some 400 years now. And it doesn't matter which group of people is being treated unfairly--so long as one is then any other group might be next. It's all wrong.

How about no more marginalized Americans? Let us not be divided any longer by race, gender, religion, class, politics or sexuality. If insist we must on marginalizing people, why not the likes of ISIS, Boko Haram, or the branches of Al Qaeda?

— Joseph Oldenbourg

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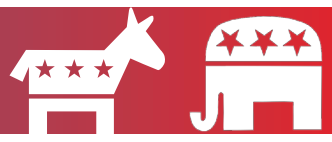
Political Fix

Catherine Doe



EAT YOUR VEGETABLES

If you always skip over the articles about the newest, hottest trade agreement here is your opportunity for a painless recap. Consider it eating your political vegetables.

Just in case you thought you were always forgetting the acronym for the trade pact, you weren't. There are three of them, TPP, TPA and TAA.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is the actual trade pact consisting of 12 countries that line the Pacific Rim. They are the United States, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) is referred to as "Fast Track." This means that President Obama would have the ability to negotiate the TPP without other countries worrying that our congress will pick it apart. Congress would only get a yes or no vote on the pact. They could not make changes.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is a federal program that gives aid to US workers who lose their jobs as a result of trade pacts such as TPP.

Out of the three, TPA, or Fast Track is what Congress has been fighting over. Rank and file Republicans have been vigorously backing President Obama's ability to negotiate and approve the trade deal. Most of the important details have already been hammered out by the 12 nations. Liberal Democrats are against Fast Track and the trade deal because it smells like the North Atlantic Trade Agreement (NAFTA,) a trade pact where many of United States' manufacturing jobs moved to other countries.

But the fact that Democrats don't support TPP shouldn't make any difference because there are 246 Republican members in Congress and they only need 218 votes to pass the Fast Track bill.

Easy peasy, right? Not so, because up to 144 members of the Republican congress are affiliated with the Tea Party, and depending on how many of them have taken their meds that day, they are an unpredictable voting group. And, the Tea Party is known for its distrust of foreign trade agreements.

According to CalChamber, "Every president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt has been granted the authority to negotiate market-opening trade agreements in consultation with Congress."

And thus last week President Obama and the Republicans stood triumphant as Fast Track passed without a vote to spare, 219 in favor and 211 against.

Conservative Democrats along with conservative Republicans voted together to pass the TPP. They need each other and President Obama needed them. Isn't that romantic?

So, it wasn't passing the trade agreement that made history, it was the bipartisan vote that made political history. This is the first time Republicans have supported their president since Obama was elected. Married to the idea to make him a one-term president, and then married to the vow of not supporting anything endorsed by President Obama, Republican obstructionism has been the lynch pin of this do-nothing congress.

Republican obstructionism came to an end last week.

Here in the Valley we were part of this historic vote. All of the Valley congressmen voted for the trade pact on June 18. They were Ami Bera (D-Elk Grove), Jim Costa (D-Fresno), Jeff Denham (R-Atwater), Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), Tom McClintock (R-Roseville), Devin Nunes (R-Tulare), and David Valadao (R-Hanford).

NAFTA had major problems and the United States lost a lot of jobs. So why should Republicans and Democrats get behind their president for another trade deal? Simply put, globalization is the future. This Pacific Rim Trade pact represents 40% of the global economy.

In an editorial by President Obama he states, "In our new global economy, 95% of the world's consumers are outside our borders, and the world's fastest-growing markets are in Asia. We don't need an unfair advantage in these markets, but we do need the chance to compete. Because when the playing field is level, American workers win."

This is not the time to be acting like a World War I isolationist. Any country that does not embrace the future will have a failed economy in the future.

GUN CONTROL IS AN OXYMORON

Guns don't kill people, people kill people. So when I straighten my index finger and make a cocked hammer with my thumb I can shoot my husband when he annoys me? You know, because people kill people.

I never seriously considered shooting my husband, but there were some sleepless nights, while pregnant, and working fulltime that I am very grateful I was not around a gun.

So if people kill people then why don't all developed countries have as many gun-related deaths as the United States? Those countries are full of people. Of course we are lacking in the academic science of studying gun violence because in the 1990's the National Riffle Institute (NRA) pushed congress to ban the Center for Disease Control (CDC) from funding firearm violence research. According to the NRA, such science isn't legitimate.

Gunpolicy.org has nevertheless done the research itself and has provided handy dandy graphs to show Americans what a safe society we live in - because everyone has the right to have a drunken uncle own one, or many, assault rifles.

According to Gunpolicy.org, in Norway there are approximately 88 gun-related deaths a year. But that's not fair to compare a big, diverse, freedom loving country like ourselves to such a wimpy country that doesn't even know how to shoot a gun. We should be comparing the United States to our cousin, England. In England there are about 146 gun-related deaths a year.

How many gun-related deaths are there every year in the United States? 33,600. That's a lot of people.

THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM

Last week the most unpopular Governor in the United States announced

POLITICAL FIX continued on **7 »**

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Pilot Project Turns Drain Water Into Fresh Water

Kate Campbell, CFBF

In the San Joaquin Valley, where water is increasingly precious, technologies are turning irrigation drain water into fresh water that can be reused on crops.

The Panoche Drainage District near Firebaugh is leading the way to a high-quality, reclaimed water source through operation of several promising pilot projects.

If the pilots prove successful, they will help the district clean up salts, selenium, boron and other minerals in tile-drain water coming from irrigated fields and reach its goal of zero agricultural water being discharged into the San Joaquin River by 2019, which is required by an agreement with federal agencies.

"We're in the process of determining if these approaches to treatment are cost-effective and sustainable," said Dennis Falaschi, the district's general manager, adding pilots will continue through the next several years to determine if they are suitable for "scaling up."

The drainage district, which receives subsurface drain water from about 100,000 agricultural acres, is working with WaterFX to demonstrate that solar-concentration desalination can be part of the solution to treat and recover drain water—turning it into water fresher than what's now delivered through the California Aqueduct for farms and cities.

In the 1950s, the federal Central Valley Project began delivering water to farmers in the valley's Grasslands Drainage Area, which includes part of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor's service area. The region extends roughly from the City of Mendota northward toward the City of Dos Palos, on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

Farmers in the area grow almonds, tomatoes, melons, garlic, asparagus, pistachios, alfalfa and more. Drainage water is collected through a complex tile system installed below irrigated fields and pumped to drainage canals. The district processes it in a number of ways, including filtering and membrane pretreatment.

The overall project, if pilot-testing proves successful, could produce as much as 5,000 acre-feet of fresh water a year. Treated water currently coming from the project is being used on a variety of crops grown on district land, including almonds, pistachios, alfalfa and Jose tall wheatgrass.

The solar-desal demonstration plant, set on about 60 acres of district-owned land, relies on 70 solar collectors to concentrate heat on clear piping to evaporate water, leaving heavy minerals behind. The result is distilled fresh water containing less than 5 parts per million of dissolved salts, which is potable quality, explained plant coordinator Betty Hurley Lindeman.

"Because the process relies on solar energy, and we store heat during the day in thermal storage units, we operate 24-hours a day," Lindeman said. "The plant requires very little commercial power and has very low air emissions."

Irrigation drain water in the San Joaquin Valley can contain salts ranging from 15,000 to over 40,000 parts per million, with salt levels in some areas higher than seawater.

As water supplies become more unreliable, Water FX project engineers said treating waste water using solar desalination technology can help in the development of new freshwater sources throughout the Western U.S.

"We're encouraged by results so far and look forward to scaling up to handle larger water volumes," Falaschi said. "Farmers in this area, working with private technology firms and federal agencies, have invested in this technology with the intention solving drainage issues across the west side."

WaterFX Chairman and founder Aaron Mandell said his company's desalination system differs from traditional seawater desalination, which is performed by a power-intensive reverse-osmosis process that forces salt and other solids through a membrane at high pressure.

Betty Hurley Lindeman, Panoche Drainage District treatment plant coordinator, works with researchers and engineers to help integrate new water treatment technology into a cohesive pilot project aimed at reclaiming agricultural drain water for reuse on crops. Photo/ Kate Campbell, CFBF

The company's system being tested by Panoche Drainage District reclaims water using a "concentrated solar still," a new device with advanced solar absorption technology. The equipment uses minimal electricity and fuel to produce more than 200 acre-feet of freshwater per acre of solar collection area.

Although the concave solar-collection mirrors rising from the surrounding agricultural fields near Firebaugh is the plant's most visually striking feature, the operation includes a solar thermal collector, an absorption heat pump, a multi-stage distillation system and a thermal storage unit to store solar heat and support 24-hour-a-day operation.

The system is modular and moveable, creating a compact footprint and the ability to easily scale the system up or down, unlike heavy, permanent installations, which engineers said adds flexibility for operations like farming.

The system can recover clean water from drainage systems, wastewater, processing water and seawater. The concentrated-solar treatment system gathers extracted metals and salts and makes them available for other commercial uses.

"Panoche is a very forward-thinking water district," Mendall said. "This project represents a dramatic shift in how we use and reuse water in water-scarce regions of California. But, our long-term goal is to chart a new course towards water independence and reduce reliance on imported water."

In its second year of field testing, Falaschi said the WaterFX system's performance is "exciting, intriguing and interesting because it promises to provide solutions for managing and reclaiming problematic wastewater streams."

Other partners include the University of California, Los Angeles and Merced, as well as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and local irrigation districts.

"We're working with credible partners, that means scientists and engineers coming together to help resolve long-term water problems," Falaschi said. "This isn't about buying and operating equipment. It's about refining the science and technology that leads to long-term solutions."

Commentary: Clean Water Act Threatens Private Property Rights

Josh Rolph, CFBF

As farmers and ranchers, we are stewards of the land and depend on it along with clean water. Now imagine if both of these resources are severely regulated by the federal government to the point where farming is not economically viable. Unfortunately, this is now a reality with the recent redefinition of "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act.

One of our members, a farmer on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, recently went through a full assessment of an 80-acre parcel of agricultural property to see how it might be regulated under changes to the Clean Water Act.

What he found was downright scary: Under the jurisdiction of an overly restrictive Clean Water Act final rule, he would have to fallow 64 of 80 acres, or 80 percent of his farm, and would therefore be left with only oddly shaped and disjointed areas of his property to farm. In other words, sustainable farming as he knows it—meaning the kind of farming that has supported his family and way of life for generations—would be over. He is not alone. This could be anyone's farmland in the state or nation.

A lot of ink has been spilled in the news media for more than a decade about efforts by Congress, the courts and the Bush and Obama administrations to redefine the Clean Water Act's "waters of the United States" regulation, or WOTUS for short. The overarching final rule will greatly expand the federal government's jurisdiction by radically expanding what it means to be a navigable water.

For years, Farm Bureau and many others concerned about what this would do to the future of farming tried everything to keep this redefinition from happening. Now, however, it's no longer an idea or a proposal. In late May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the final version of its rule redefining and expanding WOTUS.

If only the rule was about clean water. Instead, it's about regulating land use, creating a permitting nightmare, greatly limiting land-use options, requiring mitigation, negatively affecting land values, and making it more difficult to obtain financing. At the end of the day, and as the above real-life example shows, this rule makes it significantly more difficult to farm.

Farm Bureau is currently carefully dissecting the final rule in order to fully understand its implications and will continue to convey the wide breadth of impacts in future Ag Alert® articles. For now, I want to lay out some of my principle concerns and current options to eliminate the final rule. Overall, I'm troubled by the EPA's new interpretation, which defies congressional intent and upends 200 years of judicial precedent.

The final rule and its preamble come in at 297 pages and open with the words, "the scope of jurisdiction in this rule is narrower than that under the existing regulations." If only that were the case. After hours slogging through these pages, we see instance after instance of the rule broadening in scope, not narrowing.

What the final rule actually does is exactly the opposite: It creates a broader regulatory scheme than the earlier proposed rule, providing farmers with no certainty and few exemptions.

If interpreted by the agency and the courts in the way we read it, the final rule threatens private property rights more than any other regulation in the history of the United States.

If there is good news, it is that we are not alone. In addition to agriculture, other important industries we all rely upon will be impacted by this rule. Whether it is energy, manufacturing, home builders, transportation and mining, we can unite with these sectors to try to restore common sense by doing away with this law.

Currently, members in Congress are attempting to do just that. House and Senate appropriators have included language that will strike all funding to implement the WOTUS rule. We support these temporary measures but need something more permanent.

The House last month passed a bill that would require the administration to withdraw the WOTUS rule. The bill passed by a vote of 261-155. Unfortunately, that vote was 29 votes shy of the two-thirds needed to become veto proof.

This summer, the Senate is expected to consider a similar bill that would rescind the final rule and require the EPA to restart the rulemaking process by consulting with state and local government. Current thinking is that the bill doesn't have enough votes for a veto majority either, though we will actively seek support from the Hill.

The president has stated he would veto the House and Senate bills if they come across his desk for signature. The question is whether the president prioritizes this rule enough to veto an appropriations bill.

Assuming Congress doesn't come through with veto-proof legislation or vetoed appropriations bills, this issue will be left to the courts, while EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers enforce the rule.

The irony is how—when we are currently faced with historic drought, only worsened because of policy decisions—we now face new policy decisions that would bring an additional regulatory burden that ignores the contribution of farmers and ranchers to be good stewards of our land and water.

(Josh Rolph is manager of federal policy for the California Farm Bureau Federation. He may be contacted at jrolph@cfbf.com.)

This article and the one above it are courtesy of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Lindsay

Continued from p. 1

reprisal from the city for his lawsuit.

WILKINSON RESPONDS

Following the allegations of a conspiracy to remove him, Wilkinson penned a letter to the city listing his own complaints, including fraud, harassment and violations of the Lindsay City Charter. Wilkinson's May 12 letter accuses Villarreal-Padilla, Sanchez and Mecum of committing "moral turpitude by making false statements" to Clower and describes "an effort to publicly and professionally embarrass me and to avoid triggering the severance clause in my employment contract, thus defrauding me of my rights of severance."

The city has since agreed to honor that severance agreement, and will pay Wilkinson a package worth more than $240,000 over the next two years. The agreement signed by the parties also ensures Wilkinson will not sue the city. Wilkinson also agreed to fulfill any remaining legal obligations he has with the city in exchange for expenses.

Wilkinson and the city ended their formal relationship effective June 2.

PARTING WAYS

The announcement of Wilkinson's separation from the city came at a special council meeting held June 2, but it was not the first time the two parties had considered altering their relationship. In February, Wilkinson presented a plan to the council that would have seen him step down as city manager while retaining his title as chief of public safety and his salary.

The council declined the proposal in 4-1 vote.

Wilkinson became city manager in 2011, after the departure of former city manager Scot Townsend in 2010. Townsend's tenure was a contentious time for the city, marked by questions of corruption and misuse of funds.

Wilkinson was named Lindsay's Man of the Year in 2013.

PUBLIC WANTS CLOSER LOOK

Despite the resolution of the dispute between the city and Wilkinson, some residents are still seeking a deeper investigation of the matter.

"There is an appearance of impropriety," Lindsay resident Brian Watson told the Council at its June 23 meeting.

Watson said new information has come to light, and that he and other Lindsay residents have already forwarded it to the Tulare County Grand Jury, requesting that body investigate the allegations.

"But there has become of late information that many members of the community feel must be investigated because of the seriousness of the charges," Watson said. "These amounts of information, some have been public, some have not been public yet, but many of us feel must be researched by an investigative body, and so many of us are sending information to the Grand Jury of Tulare County for investigation into potential Brown Act violations, city charter violations, possible quid pro quo violations."

Quid pro quo wrongdoing involves public officials using their offices for personal gain. Watson did not elaborate on how members of the council had done so. Such conduct would be a felony violation of the Hobbs Act, a federal anti-corruption law.

ACTING WITH REGRET

Watson said although he and those he claimed to represent regretted having to call for outside investigation, they hoped there would be benefit to all involved.

"It is with a heavy heart we do this, because we don't want any of our members, especially the city council, to be found, and we're not casting any aspersions, but, found even guilty of a misdemeanor, let alone a potential felony," he said. "That does you no good, certainly does the city no good, and we would appreciate serious consideration and respectful consideration into just a few ideas or thoughts that might mitigate these potentially serious issues, and we're very concerned about the budget deficit."

Specifically, Watson urged the council to continue using an acting city manager and chief of police as a cost-saving measure, rather than hiring interim personnel, and called on staff at City Hall to contact the Grand Jury to provide information on "potential violations."

EMPTY THREAT?

Yolanda Flores, another resident who addressed the council at the June 23 meeting, was not hopeful an investigation would lead to change. She recalled a similar outcry during Townsend's tenure.

"When there was so much corruption in this town, as a group there were over 300 community members that also went to the Grand Jury, that also went to the Department of Justice, and really nothing was done, so I'm not sure what could be done now," she said. "During that time, there was misappropriation of funds, there were rumors of kickbacks to city council members. There were a lot of things going on. So, believe me when I tell you that this is not the first time."

Despite her misgivings, Flores was upbeat about the future.

"I'm hopeful that this city council will unite and do great things," she said.

CIVIC BUSINESS MARCHES ON

Despite the current kerfuffle, day-to-day operations remain smooth at Lindsay City Hall. At its June 9 meeting, the council appointed City Clerk Carmen Wilson as acting city manager. Lt. Chris Hughs had previously been named acting chief of public safety.

Wilson was upbeat when asked about the mood among staff at city hall.

"We have a great team. Everybody's working together," she said. "Obviously, it's not always easy, but everyone works really hard."

The public reaction has also been good, Wilson said, and the staff has received "lots of support."

In a closed session June 23, council members met to review applications for the interim city manager and chief of public safety positions and to set dates for candidate interviews. The result of that session are expected to be made public at the council's next regular meeting on July 7.

Agriculture

Avian Flu Effecting Growers Throughout Country, Including Local Farms

Nancy Vigran

The price of eggs and chicken continue to rise as the H5N8 strain of Avian Influenza has moved from the West Coast to the Midwest. And the price of Thanksgiving dinner is bound to cost more this year, too.

H5N8 hit a few Central California poultry farms earlier this year, with the virus infecting part of an 114,000-bird farm in Kings County in February, according to the US Department of Agriculture and reported in the *Capital Press.* A Stanislaus County turkey farm was confirmed with the disease in January.

While California is not a tremendous egg or broiler producing state, the disease has been a major concern for local farmers who do work in the poultry industry and also is becoming a major problem for poultry farmers all around the country.

This outbreak found in Kings County was an isolated case, said Tim Niswander, Kings County agricultural commissioner. It was handled by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the US Department of Agriculture, he said.

The farmer has two locations about one mile apart, he said. The disease was confined to one location and only a few of the chicken houses at that location were involved.

"The incident of Avian Influenza didn't have much effect on other growers or producers in Kings County," he said.

At the infected location, the houses involved were completely cleaned out, and in-house composting of all carcasses and debris was done, Niswander said. Then, the houses were thoroughly disinfected. Niswander was unsure as to when those houses would be cleared for potential use again.

The CDFA and USDA also checked nearby farms and backyard flocks and found no further incidents of the disease.

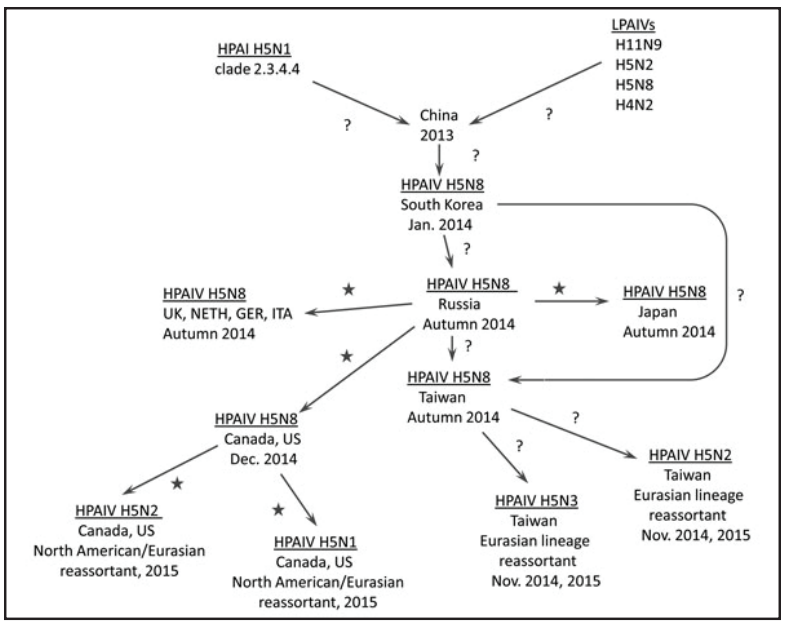
Shortly after the Kings County discover, Hong Kong placed a ban on poultry meat and eggs produced in Kings County in response to the finding, according to an industry publication, *Meat + Poultry*.

Preceding the outbreak in the Western US, H5N8 was found in British Columbia and was traced back to South-East Asia, and mainly Korea, said Maurice Pitesky, DVM, MPVM, DAVPM, assistant specialist in the University of California, Davis, Cooperative Extension division of Poultry Health and Food Safety Epidemiology.

The disease is transferred through waterfowl along their migratory paths, he said. Waterfowl who came down to California through Washington and Oregon, brought the disease with them during the winter months. Likewise, waterfowl traveling to the Midwest in the late spring and early summer are transporting the disease there now and it is expected that the disease will hit the East coast later this year.

H5N8 does not appear to affect the waterfowl that become carriers, but it is deadly to poultry including chickens and turkeys, Pitesky said.

"It has a high mortality rate in that it is 90-100 percent fatal," he said.



If one bird tests positive, the entire flock should be depopulated immediately, he said.

The disease knows no boundaries and there is a risk to backyard poultry enthusiasts as well. It only takes one wild bird to land in a backyard, near a chicken, to infect that bird. Private, small flock owners should also be aware of the disease and follow as many preventative measures as possible.

"Backyard poultry has all kinds of advantages and has become very popular," Pitesky said. "But anyone close to a waterfowl location should be very careful."

Those with domesticated fowl should discourage wild waterfowl from entering their yards, by keeping all food sources covered and eliminating any potential pond area. The disease is not only transmitted from bird to bird, but can be dropped in feces and other secretions and may be carried in on shoes, or clothing. When visiting an area where wild waterfowl have been, animal technicians should change shoes and clothing before tending to their own flocks.

There is a vaccine for this strain of Avian Influenza and the USDA is exploring the possibility of using it, but it is very debatable, Pitesky said. Some countries have used it. But, it is very hard to deal with.

Vaccinated individuals will not come down with clinical signs or illness of the disease, but they could become a carrier of it.

"There are a lot of people who feel we should vaccinate, and others say 'no,'" Pitesky said. "Once started, it could become an issue for trade restrictions," as other countries may not want to import vaccinated birds, who could be carriers.

While H5N8 is highly pathogenic in poultry, and there is a possibility of it affecting other avian species, including some native species, it should cause little to no concern for humans or other animals.

"We have never seen anything from this particular pathogen becoming a problem for humans," Pitesky said. "It would have to be a pretty unique set of circumstances for it to become a problem for humans."

California imports most of its eggs from the Midwest, as well as turkeys. Most broiler chickens come from the East Coast. With migration of the disease and major industry areas being hit with it, the price of eggs, turkeys and broiler chickens will continue to rise this year.

For now, California is in a stable environment, Pitesky said. But, everyone is waiting to see what will happen early in the fall.

"Was this an anomaly? A one-time mystery," he said. "Or now, a continuing deal?

"While hoping for the best, most everyone is planning for the worst."

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Political Fix

Continued from p. 3

he was running for president. With only 27% approval rating in his state of Louisiana, Gov. Bobby Jindal announced on Wednesday, June 24 that he was running for the Republican nomination. His shtick? He is running as the hero of the Christian Right. I guess he has forgotten about Gov. Mike Huckabee who won eight states in the 2008 primary, and would have won more, except that he ran out of money. Gov. Jindal must have also forgotten about Sen. Rick Santorum who came in second in the 2012 Republican primary. Gov. Huckabee is a former Southern Baptist Minister and Sen. Santorum actually wears knitted vests in public. You can't get any more Christian Right than that.

Not to be outdone, the second most unpopular governor, Chris Christie, announced June 30 that he is running for the Republican presidential nomination. Gov. Christie only has a 30% approval rating in his state of New Jersey.

Gov. Jindal wins the most unpopularity contest, but Gov. Christie stands alone on the podium of most untrustworthy candidate.

"Don't believe a word the man says," said Tom Moran, the editor from Christie's biggest home-state newspaper, the *New Jersey Star Ledger.* Moran added, "that, after 14 years of watching Christi, is a warning, he lies."

According to the *Wall Street Journal,* when Gov. Christie announced his candidacy, he "vowed to be an unvarnished truth-teller, promising a campaign without spin or without pandering or focus group-tested answers."

But Moran countered, "And that's my warning to America. When Christie picks up the microphone, he speaks so clearly and forcefully that you assume genuine conviction is behind it. Be careful, though. It's a kind of spell. He is a remarkable talent with a silver tongue. But if you look closely, you can see that it is forked like a serpent's."

Then there is the continuing reverberations from Donald Trump's presidential announcement on June 16. During his announcement he declared that Mexico is sending the United States all of its criminals, rapists and drug dealers. He added that he assumed some of the Mexican immigrants were good people.

So how is that working for the "most successful man ever, by far, to run for president?" Well, it looks like the Republican "big tent" just got a little bit emptier. Univision, the largest US Spanish language broadcaster just told Mr. Trump, "You're Fired!" They have pulled out of televising any project in which Mr. Trump is involved, the biggest of which is the Miss Universe and Miss USA Pageants.

Following Univision's lead, NBC a few days later cut ties with Mr. Trump. According to the *Washington Post*, "NBC NBCUniversal announced Monday that it would no longer be working with Donald Trump, including on the hit reality show "The Apprentice." NBC cited Trump's 'recent derogatory statements' about Mexican immigrants. NBC, like Univision, said it will no longer air the Trump-partnered pageants Miss USA and Miss Universe."

Mr. Trump has responded by saying that NBC is "weak" and that he is considering suing the broadcaster.

AND FINALLY…

Here's the newest joke. So, how many South Carolina legislators does it take to take down a flag? Is it the number of Republicans running for president? No. Is it the number of attendees at a Bernie Sanders rally? No. Is it the number of people killed by guns in the United States? No. The answer is 0, because no one seems to be able to take the flag down.

On June 22, the Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, announced with great fanfare that the Confederate flag waving over the state capitol was coming down. Then smiling and acknowledging all of the applause, she hugged her African American friends for the day and went back to business as usual, interspersed with a few funerals that week.

Gov. Haley's proclamation did nothing in removing the Confederate flag, but she did promise "serious debate" this summer on the issue. Meanwhile the Confederate flag waved proudly above the capitol state building while the body of Sen. Clementa Pinckney was in the building laying in state. Sen. Pickney joined the legislature in 1997 and was pastor of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopalian church in Charleston where he was gunned down. Eight other parishioners were killed by a gunman who worshipped the Confederate flag.

Gov. Haley did have her reasons for not just sending the grounds keepers to take down the flag. There are procedures. It's complicated. It was a Monday.

On the other hand, the next day on June 23, Gov. Robert Bentley of Alabama ordered the Confederate flag taken down at Alabama's state capitol building. It was gone by the next morning.

According to al.com news, "Two workers came out of the Capitol building about 8:20 a.m. and with no fanfare quickly and quietly took the flag down. They declined to answer questions."

The governor was quoted as saying, "This is the right thing to do. We are facing some major issues in this state regarding the budget and other matters that we need to deal with. This had the potential to become a major distraction as we go forward. I have taxes to raise, we have work to do. And it was my decision that the flag needed to come down."

Three weeks later in South Carolina? The state legislature is still debating.

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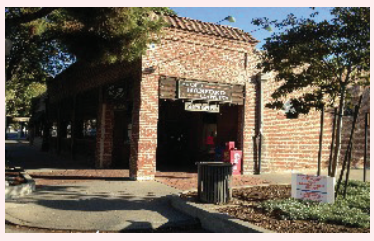

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Water

Continued from p. 1

California. We look forward to helping to resolve remaining issues and getting final action in both Houses of Congress."

In a demonstration of solidarity, an unprecedented number of water agencies in the Central Valley have come together to express support for swift passage of the bill, which aims, in part, to replace the plan to revive the San Joaquin River--and its salmon run--with a more achievable plan for warm-water fish.

In hastening water storage project studies, the bill proposes a new dam at Temperance Flat, on the Upper San Joaquin River, and seeks the raising of Shasta Dam.

"Time is running out for many of our farms and communities. Our people are desperate," said Eric Borba, Chair of Friant Water Authority. "We need solutions that will provide real water for our area, and we need them now. It is imperative that the California Congressional Delegation develop drought legislation that can be passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the President this year. For that reason, the Friant Water Authority Board of Directors applauds the introduction of the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015, and fully supports its prompt passage by the House of Representatives. This bill is a critically important first step. As it advances, Friant is eager to work with the House and the Senate to reach drought legislation that will provide real relief for the 2016 water year and beyond."

The bill further instructs the Interior Department to oversee a transfer of ownership of the New Melones Unit of the Central Valley Project--comprising, in part, the New Melones Dam and reservoir on the Stanislaus River--to local agencies.

"The Exchange Contractors appreciate the efforts of Rep. Valadao and others to introduce the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015," said Steve Chedester, Director of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority. "We look forward to continuing to work with the members of the California delegation on a solution to improve our collective water supply. We applaud local efforts being made by the federal agencies, but we need long-term water policy that provides a reliable water supply to California and fully support the prompt passage of the bill. The Exchange Contractors look forward to passage of practical common-sense legislation based on sound science so the water needs of the people of the State of California are met."

"Through its work with Mr. Valadao and the co-sponsors of this legislation," said Westlands Water District Chair Don Peracchi, "Westlands knows that they are genuinely interested in working with their colleagues in the Senate to find a legislative solution to the chronic water supply shortages that have devastated the San Joaquin Valley and other regions of the State. The District looks forward to working with both the House and the Senate to advance common sense solutions that serve the interests of all Californians."

Food Freedom

Continued from p. 1

signatures will be gathered quickly and easily.

According to Freeman it's not a matter of "if" small farm animals will be legal in Visalia, but a matter of "when."

"This initiative is going to win," she said.

The UFFF is planning on making an announcement at the July 6 Visalia City Council Meeting during the public comment period.

Freeman is basing her optimism on information gleaned from the city's documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

The public hearings in May, and the vote on June 1 against allowing chickens in residential zones, generated many calls, emails, letters and public comments both for and against. After Freeman received the documents, she tallied the correspondences and public comments concerning the debate.

She found that 85 percent were in favor of legalizing chickens and that only 15 percent were against.

This information goes against what Mayor Steve Nelsen said during the June 1 city council meeting.

Nelsen said he took his own straw poll and he found that 99 percent of those he talked to did not want chickens allowed in residential areas. Greg Collins based his no vote on his experience as a city planner.

His said that legalizing chickens in residential areas causes more problems than it solves and creates more fights than not.

Councilmembers Amy Shuklian and Warren Gubler voted in favor of changing the ordinance.

While Councilmembers Link and Nelson stated that they vote "the will of the people," Freeman found otherwise while reading through the city's emails.

"Mayor Nelsen, Bob Link and Greg Collins did not respond to a SINGLE pro-goat or pro-chicken e-mail sent to them," she said, "but responded to EVERY SINGLE anti-chicken and anti-goat e-mail with warmest regards."

Freeman continued, "On the May 4, May 11 and June 1 city meetings, out of public comments for and against owning miniature goats and chickens, more than 85 percent were pro-goat and pro-chicken at each meeting. But again, this did not stop Mayor Nelsen, Bob Link and Greg Collins from ignoring the majority in favor of their own pre-conceived prejudices and personal opinions."

Nelsen and Link acknowledged that most of the speakers during public comment represented those who were in favor of legalizing chickens, but said that the silent majority did not.

Freeman explained that the city only saves emails for 30 days before they are deleted and that some of the anti goat and chicken emails may have arrived before May 1.

State government code requires most types of public record to be maintained for at least two years, but gives leeway to local governments to develop their own policies.

Only saving emails for 30 days though presents a new set of problems concerning transparency for Visalia, Freeman said.

Slough

Continued from p. 1

appeal starts the day the city makes the decision, not the day they file the paperwork or inform parties that have objected to the project. The next step for the apartment complex is pulling a building permit then the issue goes to the planning commission.

CITY APPROVES APARTMENT COMPLEX WITHOUT DOING AN EIR

Just as mysterious as the filling of Mussel Slough is the approval of the site plan for the Bajun American Properties apartment complex. The apartment complex is scheduled to be built along Centennial Dr. and Millennium Way. Despite community opposition, the city approved the site plan without doing a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR.) Approving an apartment complex that sits on the banks of a natural waterway surrounded by agriculture land on three sides defies common sense and is an inaccurate interpretation of the requirements of an EIR. Whether the city's oversight was intentional or was justified is yet to be determined.

In the city's environmental assessment they claim that "the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment since the project is to be located in an already urbanized area."

That is debatably true and false. The apartment complex is within a half mile of Lowes and is zoned as residential. But it is also surrounded by vacant land and sits on the banks of Mussel Slough.

The apartment complex was put through a fairly detailed application process before the city approved a negative declaration. A negative declaration is approved when the city decides that a full EIR is not necessary. After a precursory environmental assessment, the city found that the apartment complex does not meet any of the conditions needed to complete an EIR. Hanford Environmental Action Team (HEAT,) on the other hand, feels that the development meets many of the conditions to qualify it for a full EIR.

On the Environmental Assessment there are 26 conditions with which the development must comply in order to avoid doing an EIR.

The first condition states that the project will not "conflict with adopted environmental plans and goals of the community where it is located." Yet, the project does conflict with the goals and plans of HEAT, an active Hanford organization that is a watchdog over Hanford's open spaces and waterways. HEAT and the City of Hanford signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2007 that had the intent to protect slough remnants. While protecting the slough, HEAT is not against development. Their goal is to implore developers to incorporate the waterway into possible pedestrian walkways or bike paths, possibly connecting them to Lowes, Target and Walmart.

The same area of Mussle Slough — previously shown — back in 2007. Photo by Catherine Doe

As a result of the 2007 MOU, Lowes developer, David Paynter had to preserve and rehabilitate the section of Mussel Slough that was not filled in by his development. But the remnant ended up being fenced off from the public and has very little left of its original flora and fauna - not exactly what HEAT had in mind. A full EIR was not completed in the case of the Lowes development. But if it had been, the slough could have been an asset to the community instead of surrounded by an unsightly chain link fence.

Conditions F - I of the application states that the project will not "degrade water quality, contaminate a public water supply, degrade or deplete ground water resources, or interfere with ground water recharge." The projected apartment complex sits on the banks of Mussel Slough which is a designated natural waterway and is used as a sinking basin. During times of heavy rain, water drains into the slough, away from developments and percolates into Hanford's ground water. When one considers the asphalt, paint and other chemicals involved in the creation of a 300-space or more parking lot, it would seem prudent to at least consider the environmental impact. The runoff from the parking lot will be flowing right into the slough during a storm. In addition there will be runoff from the rooftops of the 30 or so apartment buildings with their system of drains and gutters.

The slough remnants not only serve as sinking basins but do have a unique set of flora and fauna. Condition C, D, and T refer to fish, wildlife, and habitat which will obviously be affected by the 450 or so people living in the 216 apartments.

ADDITIONAL COMPLICATIONS OF APPROVING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The California Public Resources Code Section 21158.5 states that a "multiple-family residential development of not more than 100 units" is exempt from doing a focused EIR. But any complex larger than 100 units needs a full EIR. The Bajun American Properties Complex has 216 units.

Another oversight by the city involves Hanford's 2002 General Plan (GP). A development cannot be approved using a general plan EIR that is more than five years old. If the city had an updated EIR tiering off the existing 2002 General Plan, that would be acceptable. But a full EIR has not been done since 2003 when the Super Wal-Mart Shopping Center was built on 12th Ave. In addition, the projected apartment complex is not part of a contiguous development and is surrounded by vacant land on three sides.

The City of Hanford received a letter from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in 2012 that told them that their General Plan is outdated. Most cities updated their General Plan after the 2010 census. Hanford is in the very beginning stages of updating their GP, but it could take years.

A final consideration should be that The State Water Control Board has mandated Hanford to cut their water use by 28 percent. According to the Hanford Sentinel, Hanford only cut back their water use by 14 percent in May. Hanford faces a huge challenge to cut their water use by an additional 14 percent. How much more water is going to be used by 450 people, and where it is going to come from? If Hanford does not meet its goal of water conservation the city could face fines of $10,000 a day.

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TCOE Theatre Company's Peter Pan Opens July 17

Tulare County Office of Education

TCOE's Theatre Company is preparing to perform the beloved family musical Peter Pan this month. Tickets are now available for the seven performances offered July 17-25 at the L.J. Williams Theater in Visalia. Peter Pan is based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and has been delighting audiences since its Broadway debut 61 years ago.

In the production, Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick Tinkerbell visit the home of the Darling children late one night to begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face-to-face with a crocodile, a fierce Indian tribe, a band of bungling pirates, and Captain Hook. The production features the iconic songs "I'm Flying," "I've Gotta Crow," and "I Won't Grow Up."

Fifteen years ago, the Theatre Company performed Peter Pan. This year the beloved musical returns to Tulare County, complete with elaborate sets and costumes and an audience favorite – flying actors. "While this is the first show we have ever repeated, we felt like our current students would benefit greatly from being around this classic material," said Theatre Company Director Brian Roberts. "The biggest difference this time around is that we are creating our own sets from scratch instead of renting the pieces. Our shop folks have worked tirelessly to create the most intricate sets we have ever constructed."

Another advantage for this production of Peter Pan is the quality of the performers. "Fifteen years ago, we were a new program. We now have the great pleasure of working with and training many of our students starting at a much younger age," explained Mr. Roberts. "As a result, their skills are at a much higher level overall and their level of professionalism is startling! You don't have to look any further than our two lead characters, who have been stars in many of our recent productions."

In the role of Peter Pan is Theatre Company veteran Carly Caviglia, a senior at Golden West High School. To prepare for the role of the boy who never grows up, Carly reports that she began a regimen of pushups and abdominal crunches in January, before she was even cast in the lead. "The role takes so much stamina," she said. "I've learned to do handstands and cartwheels, and roll around on the ground like boys do!"

In the role of the villainous Captain Hook is Redwood High School senior Jack O'Leary. "Captain Hook is by far my favorite villain," he said. "I think it's because he's full of contrasts. Hook is a posh British aristocrat with the kind of etiquette pirates never have. At times, he can be bloodthirsty and egotistical, while at others, indecisive and childlike. It has been fun playing him, although learning to act with just one hand and a hook has taken some getting used to."

Old nemeses Peter Pan and Captain Hook return to Tulare County in July. Peter is being played by Golden West High School senior Carly Caviglia with Hook played by Redwood High School senior Jack O'Leary. Photo courtesy Tulare County Office of Education

Special Backstage Event

For this production, the Theatre Company has created a special backstage event for children who would like to meet the characters.

Ticket Information

Tickets are now available at TCOE Visalia offices: 2637 West Burrel Avenue and 7000 Doe Avenue, Suite A. General admission tickets are $15 per person. For more information, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482.

Mt. Whitney Grad Selected for Prestigious International Music Production Seminar with Grammy-Nominated Audio Engineer Young Guru

Staff Reports

Henry D'Ambrosio, a 2008 graduate of Mt. Whitney High School, has been selected to participate in Mixing With the Masters (MWTM), an intensive week-long seminar at Studio La Fabrique in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, that will feature master classes presented by "the world's top music mixers and producers."

D'Ambrosio and 14 other engineers from around the world were chosen to work with Young Guru, the Grammy-nominated engineer for such artists as Beyonce, Rihanna, Ludacris, Ghostface Killah, Redman & Method Man, Mariah Carey, and Jay-Z.

"For me, Young Guru is the ultimate mix master, and to be able to ask him anything about mixing, recording, and the technical aspects of our craft is a dream come true," says D'Ambrosio, who was selected from among thousands of MWTM candidates based on his application essay and submission of original demo tracks. "I study him, his work as the creator of the 'New York Sound' of Roc-A-Fella Records, and his philosophies more than any other engineer. My goal is to soak in as much of his wisdom and guidance as is humanly possible during my time at La Fabrique."

D'Ambrosio is a native of Visalia. While attending Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia, he got hooked on music production after experimenting with Fruity Loops, a hip hop beat making program that gained popularity in the late 90s and early 2000's. After graduating in 2008, he learned Pro Tools, a digital audio workstation, and was eager to expand his expertise as well as pursue a career in audio engineering.

"I checked out a few different studio production schools, but SAE was smaller and had a more intimate feeling," said D'Ambrosio, who enrolled at SAE Los Angeles in 2010 and graduated in 2011. "It offered very hands-on learning with a lot of access to recording studios, and I really got to know my peers and teachers. The curriculum was great, and I developed a strong base of knowledge about recording and mixing as well as studio etiquette – which helped me out tremendously while I was running different sessions, and is still useful to this day."

Following his graduation from SAE in 2011, D'Ambrosio was hired by Associated Television, an Emmy-winning full-service production and distribution entity, where he recorded and edited voiceovers, prepped and built Pro Tools sessions for mix engineers, and eventually became the front of house engineer for a daytime talk show and live show tapings. In 2013, he joined the Velvet Room West recording studio in Valley Village, where he's currently the head recording and mixing engineer. His original projects include tracks for a variety of independent hip hop artists, including Warm Brew (featured in LA Weekly, XXL Magazine, and Vibe Magazine) and MTV Award winner Yonas Michael (featured in Vice.com, Idol Magazine, and The Couch Sessions).

Henry D'Ambrosio, a 2008 graduate of Visalia's Mt. Whitney High School and a 2011 graduate of SAE Los Angeles' Audio Technology Program, has been selected to participate in Mixing With the Masters (MWTM), an intensive week-long seminar at Studio La Fabrique in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, that will feature master classes presented by "the world's top music mixers and producers."

About SAE

SAE Institute provides aspiring creative media professionals with a foundation of practical theory and valuable hands-on training in their chosen areas of concentration. Under the guidance of our faculty, which is comprised of working industry professionals, students gain the essential experience they need for entry-level jobs in the entertainment business. Our students are supported in their job searches by SAE's international network of alumni, many of whom are leaders in the music, film, game arts, and live performance arenas. We offer programs in audio technology across our seven US campuses, along with a music business program at select locations, all fully accredited and focused on preparing students for employment when they graduate. Bachelor's Degree programs in Animation, Audio, Film, Game Art & Graphic Design are available at the two locations of Ex'pression College, which is owned and operated by SAE Institute Group, Inc. SAE Institute Group, Inc. is a part of Navitas LTD. Learn more at USA.sae.edu.

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Briefly...

COS ANNOUNCES NEW TULARE COLLEGE CENTER PROVOST

College of the Sequoias is pleased to announce that the administration will be presenting Louann Waldner, Ph.D., for ratification by the COS Board of Trustees on their July 13, 2015 meeting agenda as the new Provost of the COS Tulare College Center. Waldner's official start date as Provost is July 1.

Waldner earned her B.S. Degree in Animal Science and Ag Communications from University of Kentucky. She earned an M.S. Degree in Animal Food Science from Kansas State University and her Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

She joined COS in August 2008 as the Director of Business, Industry & Community Services.

During that time she also served as the Deputy Sector Navigator/Director for the California Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) grant.

In 2014, Waldner was selected to serve as the COS Dean of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development. She has served as a second site administrator at the COS Tulare Center campus by keeping her Dean's office at the Tulare site.

Waldner will follow in the footsteps of the first Provost, Dr. Larry Dutto, who is retiring after dedicating more than 36 years to education. The Tulare College Center opened in the spring of 2013 and provides a full array of student services along with a comprehensive list of General Education and specialty courses. The Tulare College Center is also home to the COS Agriculture Division and District farm operations as well as our Architecture program and eventually, the whole of the Industry & Technology Division.

AVENAL RESIDENT MARTIN MALDONADO APPOINTED TO WHCCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Martin Maldonado, an Avenal resident and business owner, has been appointed to the West Hills Community College District Board of Trustees. He will fill the spot left vacant by the recent resignation of long-time trustee Edna Ivans and will finish out her term, which expires in November.

He will represent Trustee Area 3, which includes Avenal.

"I want to participate in helping our students receive a better education," he said in his application for the position.

Maldonado was appointed at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 4.

He said that as a trustee he would be interested in increasing the number of courses offered to surrounding communities and in doing outreach to students in those areas. He also wrote in his application that he would like to find a way to offer transportation to students who might otherwise have difficulty reaching the colleges.

Maldonado is self-employed and the owner of Avenal Lube and Tire. He previously served on the Avenal City Council and is a graduate of West Hills College Coalinga, where he received an associate's degree in automotive technology in 1989. He earned a teaching credential in vocational education in 1997.

FIRST PARAMEDIC PROGRAM CLASS TO GRADUATE FROM WHCL

The first class of students to become paramedics through West Hills College Lemoore's new paramedic program will graduate on July 10.

A total of 12 students will graduate from the program, which began in May of 2014.

"We have very high expectations of our paramedic students, the same as all of our health career programs," said Ralph Herrera, primary instructor and program coordinator. "I am confident these new paramedics will be able to provide the best care to all they encounter. That includes my own family and friends. And I believe they are going to make EMS even better."

Of the graduates, five will be earning an Associate of Science Paramedic degree, while the rest will receive a certificate of completion.

With this, all will be qualified to take the national exam to become a paramedic. From there, they will be eligible to be licensed as a paramedic.

The ceremony will be held in the WHCL Golden Eagle Arena from 6-7 pm. It will feature speeches from Class Valedictorian Courtney Reed, Class President Kyle Eley and Health Careers Director Kathy DeFede.

Attendance is invitation only. For more information, contact Perla Saldana at 559-925-3490.

KAWEAH DELTA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN

The Board of Directors of Kaweah Delta Health Care District is seeking someone to serve as a member of the board for the remainder of the term of Jonathan Graves, Zone I who is resigning effective June 18, 2015. Graves is relocating his primary residence outside of Zone I, which disqualifies him from serving as a member of the Kaweah Delta Health Care District Board Zone I.

The term runs through December 2, 2016. An election will be held on Nov. 1, 2016 to fill this office for a four-year term. The person appointed by the Board to serve the remainder of Graves' term is eligible to run for the office in the election.

To be eligible for appointment, an individual must be a resident of Zone I of the Kaweah Delta Health Care District.

Interested parties should submit a confidential résumé, no later than June 30, to:

Kaweah Delta Health Care
P.O. Box 2685
Visalia, CA 93279

The Board will make its appointment prior to Aug. 17, 2015.

For questions or clarification please call 559-624-2330. For information about board duties and common questions relative to the Board of Directors, visit www.kaweahdelta.org/board.

WHCCD STRIVES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY, RECEIVES PG&E REBATE FOR EFFORTS

The West Hills Community College District recently completed a large scale project at both the district's Coalinga campus and Lemoore campus which involved replacing more 200 lights with energy efficient LED fixtures.

At the district's most recent board meeting, PG&E presented a rebate check for $54,040.30 based on the reduction of energy consumption district-wide as a result of the project.

"The whole purpose of this project was to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce our electrical consumption," said Ken Stoppenbrink, deputy chancellor. "With this rebate, we can apply it with other funding toward more energy efficient projects, thus saving not only more energy but reducing our carbon footprint further."

The project came about as a result of funding from Proposition 39, which made funds available to community colleges for energy projects. The district replaced exterior site lighting with LED lamps and fixtures at both the Coalinga and Lemoore campuses. On the Coalinga campus, 116 lights were retrofitted while at Lemoore, 144 lights were retrofitted.

Following the completion of the project in August, 2014, PG&E evaluated it as part of its utility incentive program, which offers rebates for energy saving projects.

It found the project will save approximately 214,525 kilowatt-hours of energy per year, an estimated $24,581 in savings for the district in the first year alone. As a result, the district was awarded a utility rebate based on calculated savings and PG&E incentive guidelines.

"PG&E provides incentives to customers who save energy and, because they verified that we had reduced our energy consumption, they provided us with a rebate," said Stoppenbrink.

The project is only one of several efforts the district has made to conserve energy. WHCCD is also working with Cenergistic, a Dallas firm, to cut energy costs through monitoring of control systems and the education of staff.

TRIO PROGRAMS STUDENTS JOIN COS FOR THE SUMMER

From June 15 through July 22, College of the Sequoias is hosting two groups of students motivated to take their summer vacation and spend it at the TRiO Summer Academy. The Academy's focus is providing COS-taught, college-level courses to participating students.

"This summer, we have two groups joining us at COS," said Ricardo Marmolejo, Director of TRiO Programs. "The first of the two groups are recent high school graduates participating in the Summer 'Bridge' component to ease the transition from high school to college, and the second consists of students from four of our District's target high schools: Farmersville, Lindsay, Orosi and Woodlake. Both are looking to get a head-start on their education by enrolling in college-level courses."

Added benefits of the Academy include guest speakers on topics such as overcoming obstacles, careers and teen issues, and an educational field trip at the end of the six weeks.

This year's trip will take students to visit schools such as CSU Bakersfield, Cal Lutheran University and UC Santa Barbara.

The Academy also covers graduated seniors who will start college in the Fall, encouraging steady involvement in education. The "Bridge" option allows them to register in English, Math or Science up to six credits and they receive the college credit for those classes. TRiO provides the funds so the classes and supplies are at no cost to the student.

The TRiO Programs at COS are educational enrichment programs funded through Federal TRiO Grants by the U.S. Department of Education. They are designed to assist low-income and potential first-generation college students further their education beyond high school through an array of academic services. Specifically, the goal of the programs is to strengthen math and science skills of participating students, to help them to recognize and develop their potential to excel in these subjects and to encourage them to pursue degrees in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

In addition to the Summer Academy, students are counseled by program staff to ensure success in their academics with on-site tutoring at local high schools, Saturday sessions on the COS campus, financial aid and field trips, including to California colleges and universities.

VIDAK: CALIFORNIANS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO RE-VOTE ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL

During an extraordinary session of the Legislature on transportation and infrastructure issues, Senator Andy Vidak (R-Hanford) today introduced bipartisan legislation to allow Californians to vote again on the controversial High-Speed Rail (HSR) project.

"The High-Speed Rail of today is not what the voters approved in 2008. Californians deserve the right to re-vote on this massive transportation project that could end up costing hundreds of billions of dollars if it is ever completed. The money would be better spent on local roads and highways," said Vidak.

Vidak's measure would allow Californians to vote on whether they want to continue funding the HSR project, which is estimated to cost $100 billion to complete, and would immediately freeze any further spending on the project until after a vote on June 7, 2016. If approved by voters, any unspent HSR dollars would be redirected to repair and/or construct new state highways and local streets and roads.

The former chairman of State Senate Transportation Committee, Democrat Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, said this massive transportation project could really cost taxpayers as much as $350 billion to complete.

The High-Speed Rail Authority has failed to obtain private investment as promised to the voters and is now relying California's controversial cap-and-trade program to help fund the project.

There is $500 million earmarked for High-Speed Rail (HSR) in the 2015-2016 State Budget. In addition, there is a questionable $400 million "slush fund" of cap-and-trade money that is set aside for the HSR Authority to use whenever it is needed.

Quentin Kopp, a past High-Speed Rail Authority chairman, now opposes the project and has said that the HSR Authority is committing "the great train robbery . . . if they can get away with it."

Assemblymember Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield) is a co-author of the bill.

A Saga of Ignored Wells Effects Trees at Mooney Grove Park

The former lawn on the playground at Mooney Grove has been removed.

Above: a group of children, including Dickinson Campbell's children, at a tree in Mooney Grove Park.
Below: the same tree three weeks later, which Dickinson Campbell believes was pushed over by a backhoe. Tulare County Parks and Recreation Manager Neil Pilegard says the tree fell over due to root rot. Photos by Amy Dickinson-Campbell.

The wells around the county are failing, miserably. And the issue is a lot more complicated than originally imagined. During a meeting with Tulare County Chief of Administration, Jean Rousseau, citizen advocates, Amy Dickinson Campbell and Eric Campbell, attendees learned that a local farmer drilled a new well to the depth of 1,200 feet and struck salt water. That well had to be abandoned and another well dug, not quite as deep.

To add to the complications, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to bypass fair bidding practice laws to declare an emergency at the Bob Wiley Detention Facility and Mooney Grove Park due to well failure.

On June 16, the Board of Supervisors, again, voted unanimously to reaffirm the "emergency" and continue to bypass fair bidding laws. But the vote to bypass fair bidding practices became even murkier as the Tulare County Board of Supervisors tasked their employees to call around for bids. The actual wording can be found in the detailed agenda report dated June 16.

An excerpt stated:

"Since approval, staff has begun the process of contacting well drillers to obtain quotes for the work and will be contracting with an entity shortly. It is unknown how long the repairs will take or the exact project amount will be at this time as a contractor has not been selected."

Amy Dickinson-Campbell

Item 16 of Tuesday, June 30, Board of Supervisor's Meeting states the following:

Declare that the lack of water supply for East Porterville creates an emergency. Declare that constructing a new well will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids. Declare that constructing a new well is necessary to respond to the emergency. Authorize staff to bypass the bidding requirements as authorized by California Contract Code Section 22050 and hire a contractor construct the well (4/5ths vote required).

Now the wells are failing at the Detention Facility and the concern is that the inmates will not be able to flush toilets or get proper levels of running water, according to Rousseau, and that is why the county leadership called the Detention Facility, along with Mooney Grove, an emergency.

Rousseau stated that, "in his eight years as Chief Administrative Officer, they have never classified anything as an emergency before."

Rousseau stated that wells are failing all over the county, and it's only going to get worse. He asked for patience while they work through this debacle.

Amy Dickinson Campbell is a Visalia resident and a member of The Real Mooney Grove Project.

A dying tree at Mooney Grove Park. Photo by: Catherine Doe

Disc Golf: Not Your Father's Frisbee Game

Amy Dickinson-Campbell
Guest Commentary

Have you visited Mooney Grove Park recently? If you have, you have probably seen the park to be in fairly despicable shape. It's true that the drought has significantly impacted the condition of the park and the health of the trees, but there seems to be another issue that is causing negative impact to the trees and surrounding grounds: disc golf courses.

What is disc golf, you ask? Good question. The people who play disc golf call it "the best sport you've never heard of." It's Frisbee thrown into baskets like a golf ball gets hit into a hole. It's been around since the '70's, when a guy near Watsonville created it using regular Frisbees.

Tulare County's very own Parks and Recreation Manager, Neil Pilegard, was a card-carrying member of the Disc Golf Association until just recently, when he let his membership run out, according to emails uncovered through The Real Mooney Grove Project's Public Records Act investigation.

The discussions in the emails detailed soliciting sponsors for tournaments at Mooney Grove Park during county time. Another park under his jurisdiction, the Kings River Nature Preserve, up near the north Tulare County border, by Kingsburg, boasts a Pro Disc Golf Course, which seems very out of place for a nature preserve. It seems that something involving a man-made structure or edifice at a nature preserve, should be something that enhances the visitor's experience at the preserve, like a hands-on museum for kids, or walking trails outlining the vegetation and habitats of indigenous creatures, not a disc golf course which does none of that.

Although disc golf, also known as Frisbee golf, seems like it would be harmless, there have been multiple environmental impact studies showing that disc golf discs are damaging to trees beyond repair or salvage. Since June 4, there have been no less than 30 trees removed from Mooney Grove for various reasons: damage, drought, insect infestation and etc.

When Jean Rousseau, chief administrative officer, and John Hess, senior administrative analyst, were asked about the trees being removed in the park, neither man stated that they had been made aware of any damage done specifically by disc golf discs. However, both men agreed that the information provided was worth investigating further.

Hess stated that the disc golf courses have been in Mooney Grove for about 10 years.

He agreed that what might be happening now is the impact of the disc golf coupled with drought conditions, but he needed to physically go out to the tree locations and check them out for himself. Rousseau acknowledged that the discs used in disc golf are definitely more capable of causing damage than a regular Frisbee, and are significantly more difficult to throw, but he had not heard of the negative impact before.

Although both men are very busy and have seemingly missed this concern until now, the information about the negative environmental impacts of disc golf courses has been out there for a while. The Santa Cruz County Parks Commission outlined some concerns about disc golf courses at their parks in the report titled "Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course Concerns: process for Approval, Environmental Impacts, and Current Management, June 30, 2012".

An excerpt of the findings states:

We have observed and photographed trees with severe bark damage from discs, seasonal creeks trampled by players, and acres of vegetation that have been entirely removed from sloped hillsides, sending sediment and agricultural run-off into the lake. Areas of the lakeshore marked as out-of-bounds are continually being disturbed by players looking for and retrieving mis-thrown discs.

And the concerns are noted in other places in the country as well. In 2011, the International Journal of Sports Management, Recreation and Tourism, partnering with the University of Tennessee, Department of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport Studies, stated the following:

Despite the popularity of the sport, environmentalists have voiced concerns over the environmental impacts (LeClerc, Che, Swaddle, & Cristol, 2005; Lawrence, 2010). In spite of many environmental advantages disc golf seemingly has over traditional golf (e.g., no chemicals needed to keep the field green, no cutting of trees in order to design the course), there have been some recent environmental concerns associated with the sport (Estrella, 2005; Gascoyne, 2005; LeBlanc, 2006; McCaughan, 2004). For instance, some disc golf courses in California have already been closed because of the environmental problems associated with excessive use and lack of a management plan. More specifically, some of the disturbing concerns are destruction of undergrowth plants because of high foot traffic, damage to the bark of the trees from discs, and soil erosion and compaction. These concerns introduce new challenges to sport managers and planners of outdoor sport activities in urban settings.

The University of Tennessee report notes that soil erosion was found in every sample. The significance of the erosion depended upon the type of soil, but it was found nonetheless.

Mooney Grove Park is first and foremost an oak preserve, but our precious oak trees are being destroyed and not properly preserved. It would seem that if disc golf is causing damage to our precious trees, then it needs to be removed from the park, not the precious oaks that were entrusted to the people of Tulare County to protect and preserve.

Amy Dickinson Campbell is a Visalia resident and a member of The Real Mooney Grove Project.

The circled red areas show semi-horizontal ruts in the trees caused by disc golf discs.

A disc golf disc is harder than a normal frisbee, and metallic.

Viewpoint

The Great Vaccine Debate: The Loss of Parental Rights — Forced Vaccinations

Michele Moore

Disclaimer: I vaccinated all my children as the law states they had to be vaccinated before attending school. This law goes one step further and infringes upon our parental rights.

If your child does not get every single vaccine on the states list of vaccines, they will not be allowed in pre-school, public school, high school or college. This was in a tweet on Senator Pans Facebook page and he actually included you won't be able to work.

Senator Richard Pan the author of SB277, as an Assemblyman wrote a bill that the governor signed into law in 2012 - AB2109. Governor Brown added to that law, as he directed the Department of Health to oversee the policy as to not "overburden parents in the implementation of the law". He also added that the department was to allow a religious belief exemption into the law and the parents would not have to seek a health care Practitioners signature. AB2109 is a law that requires a letter or affidavit to document which required immunizations have been given and which have not been given on the basis that they are contrary to the parent or guardian's or other specified person's beliefs. The health care practitioner is to provide the parent or guardian of the person who is subject to the immunization requirements with information regarding the benefits and risks of the immunization and the health risks of specified communicable diseases. The bill required the form to include a written statement by the parent, guardian, other specified persons, or person, if an emancipated minor, that indicates that he or she received the information from the health care practitioner. This actually increased the vaccination rate of the un- vaccinated from 3.8% to 2.4% So the law did what it was intended to do. Increase the vaccination rates. Now as a Senator, Pan wants to do away with all of that.

> *"I vaccinated all my children as the law states they had to be vaccinated before attending school. This law goes one step further and infringes upon our parental rights."*

Under SB277 it seems they want a complete 100% of children vaccinated. Senator Pan has said that parents will still be able to get an exemption if the doctor writes out a letter. There were over 75 requests to doctors just to see if those exemptions would be written and they were not. Schools are already demanding that children come in with all the additional vaccines, which if they are not starting school they have until the 7th grade to report with those additional vaccines. Reporting takes place in preschools K and 7th grade, so you can be grandfathered in and not have to proceed. Since this has not even gone into effect yet the schools have jumped the gun. Implementation has been pushed back until July 2016.

While I have looked on the CDC website on the vaccination chart, and after receiving the new handbook from the state under the HealthNet program and seeing all the shots being required, I have to say...'that's a lot of shots.' During your child's school years they will be required to get 69 shots. Some will say children are only required to get 10 shots, but these are series of shots. So while yes there are 10, in the series it adds up to a total of 34 shots. This is including a flu shot each year.

The CDC website shows the list of ingredients. It shows all the ingredients and some are something you would not want to inject into your child.... diploide cells, (fetal cells) monkey kidney cells plus the ever present formaldehyde. Ask your Doctor for the insert to the vaccination next time you take your baby in. They have also modified the shot ingredients and most have been changed since 1994.

Within a day of this vote out of the education committee, a report on the news said that Tulare County is reporting 63 new whooping cough cases. Why? There seems to have been a change of ingredients from last year. That looks like it wasn't the best thing to do. 2014's flu shot was ineffective as not the right shot for that strain of flu.

This bill was started after an outbreak of measles at Disneyland. Even in the language of the bill it states, out of 137 cases, 56% were over the age of 20, 27 of the cases had been vaccinated, and a handful of children were below the age of being able to receive the vaccine. So let's do the math....we seem to have only 36 cases that involve the targeted age group of school age children. So the legislators have spent the last 6 months in untold man hours, making parents upset and taking a stand, and getting over 10,000 parents and grandparents to do our homework and research the topic of vaccines.

More research has found that there is a fund for the vaccine injured which has paid out over 3 billion dollars, so the fact that Senator Pan continues to say there are very few injuries could be a bit misleading. Vaccine manufacturers have been indemnified by the government. I refuse to support any non-free market enterprise that has no liability or obligation to their customers.

He turned to a lobbyist during the hearing for advice seems totally inappropriate and he was admonished for it. Never has that been done in the history of the Senate in a committee hearing.

Another item we have found in looking up campaign finances is the fact that Senator Pan has received over $94,000 from drug companies such as Merk, Johnson and Johnson and GlaxoSmithKline. We have found that both members on the Education committee and the Health committee have received funding. Senator Holly Mitchell took a total of $54,000 and we even found that Senator Andy Vidak shows $1500 given in the 2014 election cycle. I'm not an expert on campaign finance reports but that seems like a conflict of interest to then turn around and vote in favor of something that is benefiting drug companies. Senator Vidak doesn't even have any children. I'm sorry but my momma bear instincts come out on this. When would they think it is appropriate to recuse themselves in the legislative process? In speaking to one of his constituents the other day, she said she was a teacher aide and I would be surprised at what the children were bringing into the classroom. I find this somewhat upsetting since even the illegal immigrants who are being allowed into our schools have to meet the same requirements in getting their vaccines as our children do.

So now let's revisit the tweet made by Senator Pan. Your child will not be able to attend school or get a job, which I have never been asked to show proof of vaccines for a job, but his words about school is very upsetting. If you do not follow their mandate you will have to Homeschool your child. Which on one hand with Common Core doesn't sound all that bad, but under the California Constitution, all children have the right to an education.

ARTICLE 9 SECTION 1. A general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the Legislature shall encourage by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement.

The right to a public education in California is a fundamental right fully guaranteed and protected by the California Constitution. (96) Recognizing the central role that education plays in our society, the California Legislature has enacted numerous laws designed to promote equality in educational opportunities and to safeguard students against discriminatory practices in public schools providing educational services. (footnote) California Department of Justice Attorney Generals Office

Current state law requires children to be vaccinated before attending school but nowhere in the Constitution does it state that you must be vaccinated before attending school. I'm sure the Oversight Committee has looked into this....Wait, the Oversight Committee was dismantled by Senator Protem Kevin deLeon (24) D back in November 2014 after he won the election and was installed as the Speaker. Now why do you think that happened?

This bill should have gone through the appropriations committee because there will be a profound fiscal impact if your child isn't allowed to attend school. One parent will have to be at home to teach so the loss of income would be a factor, and the loss to the school of revenue for the child will be an issue.

Nowhere in the law does it state that the vaccines listed now would be the only ones required. At anytime more vaccines could be added to the list.

Next up is SB792 which will require all day care workers to get their shots. There is also evidence that vaccines do more injury to adults more often than children. The drug manufactures have exempted themselves from lawsuits (thus the vaccine injury fund) and doctors are also exempt from vaccine injuries. If this is a state law, would that leave the state on the hook for injuries suffered by adults to appease those in power in Sacramento?

So does the state have the right to dictate such things over the wishes of parental rights? Some children have cancer and cannot get shots. Don't they run a risk of even catching a cold, which could be deadly to them? Shouldn't they be the ones to be homeschooled? Children with positive HIV, Hep B and HepC will be allowed in school. Those students with these conditions do not have any privacy concerns as this falls into the HIPA rules. (surprise surprise)

The vaccine rate is extremely high and that is good, so why would an unvaccinated child be any risk to a vaccinated child. The vaccines are supposed to be effective right?

Watch out for what could happen next. Would CPS be called in because of their so called 'child neglect'.

Some bring up a 1904 ruling, which by today's standards would be ruled unconstitutional.

One more little tidbit to add to your knowledge, Edmund 'Pat' Brown Sr. in 1961 when he was Governor signed into law, the California Exemption. Now will his son ruin the legacy or will he uphold it as he did by writing in a religious exemption to AB2109 in 2012.

We're on that slippery slope to Tyranny.

You can read the bill for yourself at California Legislative Information web site.

Assemblyman Mathis Disappointed Governor Brown Signed SB277 into Law

Governor Brown signed into law the most controversial bill in the 2015-2016 Legislative Sessions, SB277 - Mandatory Vaccines.

"I find it disconcerting that Governor Brown did not show the same consideration to the people who have dedicated their personal time and energy to oppose this bill as he did in his first term with AB2109 in order to protect the Religious Freedoms of Californian's," stated Mathis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The vaccine rate has significantly risen in California thanks to Senator Pan's previous bill, AB2109, which was passed when Pan was serving as an Assemblymember. However, when Governor Brown signed AB2109 into law on September 30, 2012, he wisely instructed the Department of Health to allow for a separate religious exemption on the form in order for Californians, whose religious beliefs preclude vaccinations, to not be required to seek a health care practitioner's signature.

AB2109 was a success to ensure more students in our school system are vaccinated and with that bill, Governor Brown demanded an exemption which would not infringe on their Constitutional Rights.

Columns & Letters

Comment at ourvalleyvoice.com or fb.me/ourvalleyvoice

"I was grateful to see your front page story regarding the demise of Mooney Grove. I, like the mother in the article, made the mistake of taking my three-yr. old grandson there to "feed the ducks." It was more like visiting a mine field of Canadian Geese poop. Not only was it nearly impossible to walk, but the geese were so aggressive as we tried to throw bread to the little ducks that I had to protect him between my legs. If he were a more timid child, he would have been terrified. This is an absolute disaster. I add my voice to the complaints."

— ***Monica R. Pizura***

"I've never understood why John Zumwalt was allowed to sit on both sides of the table in these matters. It's a huge conflict of interest.

I recall when Kaufman and Broad came to town in the 90's to build the development just west of the 43/10th Ave interchange. K & B was supposed to incorporate a park into their development. They wanted the park area for more lots to build and make more money. They proposed that kids could use the small park area at the interchange, a dangerous proposition with cars zooming along at 55mph just feet away. The pass-through from the K & B subdivision to the park was fenced off for safety when the subdivision was originally laid out and the block wall was built.

Zumwalt's firm argued strenuously for the change, and Zumwalt, sitting on behalf of the planning commission, voted for the allowance. Marcie Buford jumped on board as well. It passed, so there would be no park within the subdivision. The pass-through to the "park" along 43 was never opened, and it and remains closed to this day, 20 years later.

Unfortunately, with people like Zumwalt making the calls, Hanford will never resemble Visalia and its open spaces. A real shame for such a nice town."

— ***Tom Bracken,** on **Who Filled In Mussel Slough?***

"It all sounds good, right? Anything to get more doctors into this woebegotten region should help keep the "self payers" (uninsured) from continuing their exodus to out-of-town medical offices, because local ones won't accept self-pay, Medicare or Medi-Cal patients. Just know it'll cost you some. There's a polling outfit that's calling Visalia residents right now to find out just how willing you'd be to vote on yet a new tax measure to "expand" KDHCD services and facilities–just ten years after the last measure, for which we property owners are still paying a yearly assessment."

— ***Renee Lapin,** on **Visalia Medical Clinic to Get New Management***

"Dear Editor,

Nearly 240 years ago, our founding fathers declared our national independence from Great Britain. This 4th of July, let's declare our independence from the meat industry.
More than 60 percent of U.S. agricultural subsidies pay for meat, dairy, and egg production. Fresh fruit and vegetable farmers receive less than one percent of the total. It's time to declare our independence by stopping these subsidies.
Our annual medical care expenditures for diseases associated with consumption of animal products are estimated at $300 billion. Much of the cost is borne by our taxes through Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Administration, and Obamacare. It's time to declare our independence by taxing animal products to recover these costs.
Currently, the meat industry is getting Congress to gut dietary recommendations by a government-appointed panel of our nation's top nutritionists. The panel recommended incorporating reduced meat consumption and sustainability of food sources in our dietary guidelines. It's time to declare our independence by telling the meat industry to butt out of our dietary guidelines.
In the meantime, each of us can declare our personal independence from the meat industry by refusing to subsidize it on our next trip to the supermarket."

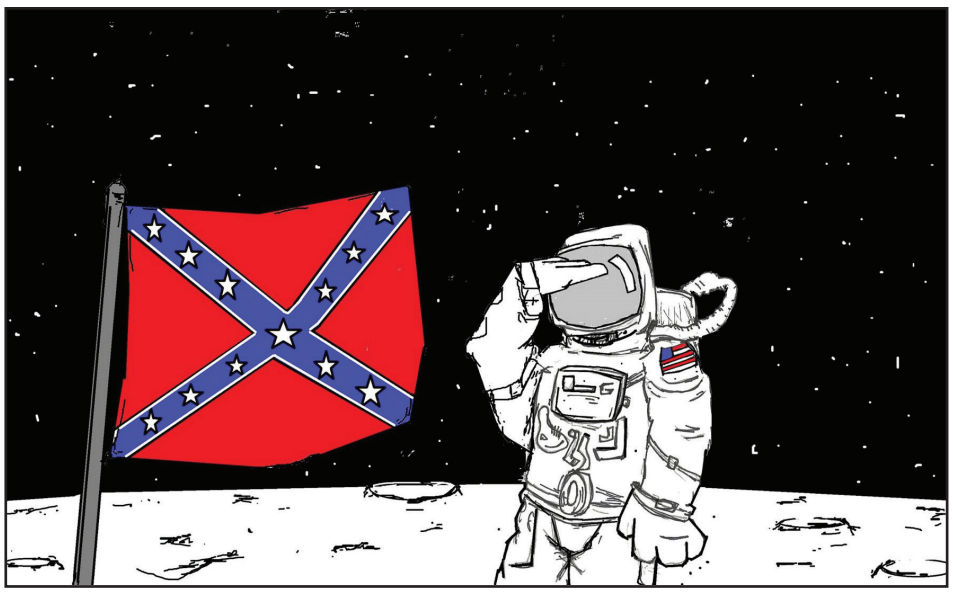
— ***Brian Vincenti***

"Freedom from government? You have a "moral duty to obey unjust laws"? Sure! Bring on the flag-waving anti-vaxxers in your brood while you're at it...also the ones who give the name "PRO-ABORT" to any woman who values HER *lawfully-granted* reproductive rights. Yes, welcome to the city!-- those who say the middle class (not your farms) are the ones that stink....Ye who cry, "We're military and have a tight budget"-- so everyone owes it to you, socialist-style, to let you and your livestock live among us, in as nice (yes, 'NICE' was the word) a place as everyone else. ... who get your lawyers to work for you for free, when the rest of us have to pay. Lol. Come on over, parents and other "grownups" who just this month created an entire online page with cartoonesque photos and captions mocking City Council member Bob Link and his downtown business, just because he didn't vote *your* way.
Visalia: These "pro-goaters"/non-voters want to be YOUR NEIGHBORS ! grin emoticon"

— ***Renee Lapin,** on **Urban Farmers for Food Freedom is Born***

Black Tie

Alex Oldenbourg



Houston, we've got a problem.

Veteran's Corner

Discharge Reviews and Corrections

Joe Wright

Eligibility for VA benefits in general requires that the claimant or the person on whose service a claim is based have been discharged from service under honorable conditions. With certain exceptions, an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions is binding upon VA for all benefits purposes.

If the discharge was less than honorable, VA will determine if the discharge was under other than dishonorable conditions, so long as it was not issued for any of the reasons constituting a statutory bar to benefits, such as a discharge or dismissal by reason of sentence of a general court-martial, or a resignation of an officer for the good of the service, etc. If VA determines that the discharge was issued under other than dishonorable conditions, the claimant is eligible to proceed with the claim for benefits. Otherwise, the claim must be denied.

Persons whose discharge from service was under other than honorable conditions may choose to apply for a review and upgrade of the discharge by the Service Department. This may be either by a Discharge Review Board or by a Board for Correction of Military Records. The Discharge Review Board is empowered to determine whether the discharge or dismissal in an individual case should be changed, corrected or modified under reasonable standards of regulations and discipline for that branch of service. The board does not have the authority to reinstate the applicant to service, nor can the board change reenlistment codes to permit the applicant to return to service. In addition, if the other than honorable discharge was based on having been AWOL for more than 180 days, a re-characterized discharge by the board is not binding upon VA. An application must be filed not later than 15 years after the discharge or dismissal from service.

Boards of Correction of Military Records are established to correct any military record, for the purpose of correcting an error in the record or to correct an injustice. Correction of a military record may include review of a discharge that was directed by a court-martial. A re-characterization of a discharge by a board as "honorable" or "general, under honorable conditions" is final and binding on VA for all veterans' benefits purposes.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran I.D. cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.

Send us your Letters to the Editor

3350 S. Fairway Street, Visalia, CA 932777

By email: editor@ourvalleyvoice.com

Corrections

The Editor apologizes for the following errors in the 18 June *Valley Voice*:

- "Hidden Valley Park" was inaccurately referred to as "Happy Valley Park" in the "Who Filled In Mussel Slough?" article.

Print replica edition at issuu.com/ourvalleyvoice

On Facebook at facebook.com/ourvalleyvoice

Tulare Volunteers Envision New Way of Working Together

Dave Adalian

From a small plot of land on the edge of Tulare, Danny Ochoa Leon is trying to change the world, or at least the way people work together.

Fed up with the growing inequity in our modern lives and the widening distance between neighbors, Leon is working on a new way of doing things, a method of network building that produces genuine communities that leave no one out.

"It started with a comment from my mother," Leon said. "She said, she wished she could grow enough food to give away, and I said, 'OK.' She ended up growing 200 tomato plants in her front yard. We'd just let people take the tomatoes away."

A group of friends formed around those plants, and soon they were building gardens for each other at their own homes. Friends of friends started asking for garden help, and soon an after-school program became involved. The idea had taken root.

"From there it's grown to a project for anyone who wants to do a sustainable project," Leon said. "We're trying to develop projects that rely on no one. We want it to be independent and survive."

FOOD IS FREE

That notion of free tomatoes has become the Sustainable Communities Project of Tulare -- scpprojecttulare.org -- and one of its current projects, one typical of the group, is distributing self-watering, pre-planted gardens within a neighborhood at no charge.

"The idea is we'll build 10 of these and pick a street. The only stipulation is you keep it in the front yard and give your neighbors food," Leon said. "This way, we get our presence. People get the idea it's OK to go up and eat. That's going to help with food and resources and networks."

From there, a sense of prideful custodianship seems to develop, and as the neighbors interact and cooperate with one another a genuine feeling of community pervades what was once just another subdivision. Leon also hopes these projects will help build respect between those involved.

"When you come to know your neighbors, you're not indifferent to their suffering. What's important to us is creating the sense of community," he said, describing a future where these neighborhoods develop seed banks, larger growing spaces and greenhouses, and tool libraries in the homes of those who live there, and eventually leadership councils.

"We start out initiating the community," he said. "They can sustain themselves. I love networks. We evolved in group settings. When we work together, we all benefit."

BANKING TIME

Recently, the Project volunteers have been working on the creation of a time bank, a way individuals throughout the area can trade their services through an exchange, and a tool library that anyone can use free of charge to complete their own projects, a nascent household furnishings loaner program.

GROWING MOVEMENT

Leon, who grew up in Tulare and attended school there, lived for a time in the Philippines and in Los Angeles. He returned to Tulare three years ago, setting up on a property his family has occupied for the last 20 years. That oversize lot surrounded by fields has turned into a sort of sandbox for sustainable projects, serving as both a workshop and an example. Along the road is the Sustainable Communities Project sign directing those who become interested to the group's Facebook page -- more than 1,600 members strong at facebook.com/scptulare.

Danny Ochoa Leon, one of the main forces behind Sustainable Communities Project Tulare, feeds a flock of juvenile chickens at his home in rural Tulare. SCP Tulare is a group of volunteers working to build a stronger sense of community and foster cooperation between neighbors. Photo by: Dave Adalian

Shoulder to shoulder with a giveaway seed bank are a pair of small enclosed bookshelves where passersby can share books they're ready to pass on and find new titles for free. Anyone who happens by is also free to pick produce from the various gardens spread through the yard.

Anyone with a sustainability project is welcome to participate in the group, either in person or online, with SCP Tulare providing a means of linking the various endeavors together and creating new community leaders in the process.

"I envision many, many communities. They have the network of communities," Leon said. "We want to serve as an example and help people become leaders."

Valley Voice
Valley Scene

Martina McBride: "Everlasting" in Visalia

Staff Reports

First hitting country charts in 1992, this will be Martina McBride's second stop in Visalia since 2013. Best known for her hits "Independence Day, "This One's for the Girls," and "I'm Gonna Love You Through It," her newest project is a collection titled Everlasting.

It is a stunning listening experience, with McBride finding fresh nuances in familiar lyrics and working within beautifully crafted new arrangements of cherished melodies. She breathes new life into ballads like "I've Been Loving You Too Long," "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and "Do Right Woman" by digging into the deeper meaning of their messages. McBride is equally refreshing on such tempo tunes as "Wild Night" and "Suspicious Minds."

Motown gets some new twists in her versions of "Come See About Me" and "What Becomes of the Broken Hearted." The 1967 Linda Ronstadt ballad "Little Bit of Rain" becomes a standout moment on McBride's new record. So is the reworking of the 1966 Etta James/Sugar Pie DeSanto romp "In the Basement," where McBride is joined by pop star Kelly Clarkson. Soulful Gavin DeGraw is her duet partner on the revival of the 1962 Sam Cooke classic "Bring It on Home to Me."

Everlasting is a departure for Martina McBride in several respects. The pop repertoire and her blue-eyed soul musical approach are certainly new for her. This is also the first collection on her own label. And it marks her first album collaboration with superstar producer Don Was, famed for his work with The Rolling Stones, Bonnie Raitt, John Mayer, Bob Dylan, Joe Cocker, Bette Midler, Carly Simon, The B-52s, Ringo Starr and more.

"Martina's 2013 performance at the Fox had, by far, the best sound I've ever heard in that Theatre," said promoter Ryan Stillwater with Rainmaker Productions.

Anyone familiar with her career and personal life, knows her husband, John McBride, is a world-famous sound and recording engineer. It was her husband who mixed the show at the Fox two years ago.

"Whether you're a fan of her country hits or interested in the new renditions on Everlasting, there's a reason McBride is a household name in the music business," Stillwater continued.

To date, she has had 20 top-10 hits and six No. 1 smashes. As a result, Martina McBride is ranked as the most played woman vocalist on country radio between 1999 and 2010. She was honored with induction into the cast of the Grand Ole Opry in 1995.

Martina McBride

Martina McBride has been awarded 14 Gold Records, nine Platinum honors, three Double Platinum Records and two Triple Platinum awards and been recognized for selling more than 18 million units. The Country Music Association has named her its Female Vocalist of the Year four times. The Academy of Country Music has presented her with its Top Female honor three times. The Recording Academy has nominated her for 14 Grammy Awards.

Treat yourself to that kind of talent on Sunday, July 12 at the Visalia Fox Theatre. This show is a benefit for Visalia Rescue Mission.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 625-1FOX (1369) or online at foxvisalia.org.

The Visalia Convention Center front courtyard is seeing some major changes with the elimination of turf and addition and drought-resistant plants, while keeping trees for shading. Photo: Nancy Vigran

Convention Center Undergoing Facelift

Nancy Vigran

The Visalia Convention Center has its eye on many prizes. So much so, that the city is investing $5.6 million to help them win.

The prizes are conventions and business meetings bringing people into the area from around the state, and the country, to help the local economy.

The city council had originally agreed to spend $5 million on a remodel, said Wally Roeben, manager of the convention center. But all bids came in a bit higher than expected, so the council agreed to another $600,000, eliminating some less necessary items, but covering the majority of the original plans.

The funding comes from Visalia's general fund, said Leslie Caviglia, assistant city manager. And most of it comes through refinancing the convention center at a lower percentage rate, she said.

"It is more of a redo, than a remodel," Caviglia said.

There is little being done to the structure itself, she said. Only a conversion of a set of seldom-used bathrooms to a conference room on the east side of the building.

Save for the exhibit hall, the convention center is seeing all new paint and wallpaper, carpet, tile and lobby furnishings, Roeben said. Charging and Wi-Fi hookup stations will be added in lobby areas. New roofing has already been completed.

"As we compete with other cities, we need to refresh," he said.

The convention center last saw renovations in 1990.

"This is not dissimilar to what hotels do," Roeben said. "And they generally do it every 10 years."

Currently there are about 27 workers on the project being performed by Johnston Contracting, Inc. of Fresno, he said.

The colors will be more earth-toned and will appear more inviting, he said.

Outside in the front courtyard, turf is being eliminated and drought-resistant plants are being

CONVENTION continued on **24 »**

Clover's Dream Becomes Reality with Opening of The Clover House

Nancy Vigran

Wesley Clover had a dream. The Santa Monica native and his wife, Marion, made Exeter their home in the 1980's. His dream was to turn an old house into an historic landmark.

When Clover realized he would not live long enough to see this vision come true, he turned to friends for help. Now, less than one year after Clover's death, the dream became a realty with the opening of The Clover House on North E Street in Exeter.

The two-storey Clover House, named for the Clovers, is a museum of sorts now available for weddings and other events, and is home to the Kirksey family.

Tricia Kirksey, a local realtor with whom Clover worked, and her husband, Charlie, purchased the 107-year-old house from the Clovers. It was agreed that they would return the house to as close to its original architecture as possible and that it would be available for the public to see. It was agreed that it would be named in honor of the Clovers.

"Wes Clover was a dear friend of mine," Kirksey said while giving a tour of the home during an open house. "He bought this house nine years ago for someone to redo."

The house was originally built by the local railroad in 1908 for Jonathan Grant Kirkman, the descendants of whom still live in the area. In fact, the house is close to the tracks still used by the locally-based, San Joaquin Railroad today.

There was an idea that a local forge company would rebuild the house as a dormitory for those who attended the company's forging school. But that never materialized. A couple of different organizations, including a temporary children's home and a home for battered

CLOVER HOUSE continued on **24 »**

While The Clover House is a private residence, the restored house is now available for weddings and other private events, as shown during a recent open house. Photo: Nancy Vigran

Education

Cam Olson New WHCC Falcons Head Coach

The West Hills College Coalinga Falcons football team now has a new head coach.

Cam Olson, who is in his second year with the Falcon program and has served as the team's Assistant Head Coach, Offensive Coordinator, and Recruiting Coordinator, has been named to the position.

"West Hills College is a special place and our mission is to ensure student success as a whole," Olson said. "Moving forward and continuing our efforts for student success, this team will be built on genuine leadership, character building and accountability, work ethic in the classroom and on the field, tireless recruitment and placement, and excellent instruction."

Olson comes to the position with fourteen years of coaching experience, an 88-44 coaching record, two National Championship victories, two Conference Championships and one bowl game appearance and victory.

He also has four prior seasons of head coaching experience and has served as coach for a variety of teams, ranging from Oregon and Idaho to Austria and Finland.

"The college is excited about having Coach Olson lead our football program," said Mark Gritton, Director of Athletics. "Additionally, I have full confidence in Cam's ability to keep the program moving forward."

Olson has been with the Falcons since March of 2014.

WHCC President Carole Goldsmith praised Olson for his dedication to students both on and off the field.

"Cam brings a focus on the tactical development of our students, both in the classroom and on the field, that is not often found," she said. "His focus on student improvement will be critical to future Falcons who will become better athletes and students, well-prepared to tackle the next level of college or to transfer."

Hamlet: A Tragedy of Belief

This is the first of a series of four articles on Shakespeare's major tragedies.

Joseph R. Teller

Shakespeare wrote *Hamlet* around 1600. The story was not original to Shakespeare: there was a popular play called *Hamlet* on English stages for years, and the story dates from the twelfth-century *History of the Danes*, by Saxo Grammaticus.

The play begins at night on the battlements of Elsinore castle. For two nights, the guards have seen what looks like the ghost of old Hamlet, the recently dead king of Denmark.

Though the ghost will not speak to them, they believe that it will speak to the old king's son, Prince Hamlet.

Prince Hamlet is depressed about both his father's recent death and his mother's "o'erhasty marriage" to his uncle, Claudius. Hamlet confronts the ghost on the third night.

Claiming to be Hamlet's father, the ghost reveals that Claudius murdered him in order to gain the crown and Hamlet's mother, Gertrude. The ghost demands that Hamlet revenge his death, which Hamlet swears to do. In order to carry out his revenge, Hamlet feigns insanity.

But Hamlet cannot bring himself to kill Claudius. He wonders whether the ghost is telling the truth; the ghost may in fact be a "goblin damned" intending to poison his soul.

As Hamlet struggles to fulfill his promise, he ends up committing a series of disturbing acts: he spurns his mother and stepfather in front of the whole court; he humiliates Ophelia, his lover, in a similarly public way (she eventually loses her mind and dies); he refuses to kill Claudius at one point because Claudius is praying, and he wants to send Claudius to hell, not merely kill him; he murders the king's closest advisor, Polonius, apparently mistaking the old man, hidden behind a tapestry, for Claudius; and he orders the death of his close friends, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

The play comes to an exhilarating climax: Laertes, Polonius's son and Ophelia's brother, wants revenge, and conspires with Claudius to murder Hamlet during a fencing match. The match ends badly: Laertes stabs Hamlet with a poison-tipped foil, Hamlet stabs Laertes with the same foil, Gertrude drinks a cup of poisoned wine Claudius intended for Hamlet, and Hamlet kills Claudius with the same cup.

At the end of the play, all the major characters are dead directly or indirectly because of Hamlet, and the Danish kingdom is taken over by prince Fortinbras, who happens to be leading a military expedition against Poland.

How is this play a "tragedy?" One way to look at the play is through the lens of what we believe, how we act on that belief, and how we face the consequences of such action in a world with no clear answers.

Hamlet is never quite sure whether to believe the ghost, and struggles to find proof of his claims; he also agonizes over whether he should act, or refuse to act by killing himself. And when Hamlet *does* act, he seems unable to do anything good or effective. Hamlet's ultimate solution is to place his faith in providence: "there's a divinity that shapes our ends, / rough-hew them how we will," he claims near the end of the play.

Yet the action of the play, full of murder, manipulation, treason, revenge, and lust, hardly seems "providential." Thus, the play forces us to ask a number of questions about belief and action: why do we believe in the supernatural?

How do our beliefs—in God, in goodness, in self-interest, in family, in power, and duty, and so on—shape our actions?

How do we interpret the actions of others? To what extent can we control our beliefs or actions? Are our actions rash, reasoned, good, or evil?

Is there in fact a power, divine or not, that guides our decisions? And is that power good—or is it dark and unknowable?

Ignore this deadline:
9 June, 2015

Job's Daughters Continuing Age-Old Tradition of Community Involvement

Robin L. Mattos

For more than 10 years, Visalia's Convention Center has served as a yearly gathering place for California's Job's Daughters. It is commonly known as Grand Bethel of California. Mrs. Carol Ann Hayden is this year's Grand Guardian, and Mr. Doug Anderson is the Associate Grand Guardian for the State of California. "Any Grain of Sand Can Become a Pearl" was this year's theme.

Job's Daughters is based on the Book of Job. This particular part of the Old Testament was chosen for Job's Daughters because of the trials and tribulations of Job. According to the Book, Job was a pious and upright man who worshiped God and was blessed with many children, land, flocks and possessions. His family worshiped God every day. Job had his faith in God tested by having everything taken away, he was left alone and had no possessions.

No matter what happened to Job, he continued to worship God, he never gave up. Job believed that as long as his faith in God was steadfast, he would go to Heaven. Because Job continued to keep faithful to God, he was given renewed wealth after his faith was tested. There is a Biblical passage that ties it together: "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren." (Job 42:15) Job's Daughters are in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Philippines as well as the United States. It is non-denominational, yet belief in God and respect for your country and its flag are requirements.

The 2015 Grand Bethel was the 69th Annual Installation of Officers held June 25 through June 28. It brought hundreds of young women, ages 10 through 20, (9-year-old girls are allowed to participate as JD2B [Job's Daughter to be]), along with their chaperones and parents.

Grand Bethel includes competitions for members in both individual and team categories. Competitions include essays, librarian's original writings, music (both vocals and instrumental), arts and crafts, drill team, volleyball, and ritual memory work, just to name a few.

Every Grand Council chooses a philanthropic project. This year's is "Canine Companions for Independence." Each Bethel in California promotes, donates time and money for the philanthropic project chosen by the Grand Council.

Job's Daughters International is a part of the Masonic Family, which includes, but is not limited to, the Shriners, Rainbow Girls and DeMolay. These associations and their individual foundations offer college and post graduate scholarships to members locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. Education and appreciation for the arts, as well as service to the community, are just some of the platforms for all Masonic organizations. Who hasn't heard of Shriners' Hospital for Children?

Lemoore and Porterville Job's Daughters Chapters are the closest to the Visalia-Hanford area.

Miss Daley Roche from Porterville served as Grand Bethel Honored Queen for the 2014-2015 term. This Grand Bethel ends her term and she served as the installing Honored Queen for the 69th Installation of Officers. Daley has represented our local community and California's Job's Daughters.

Grand Officers like Daley must visit as many Bethels as possible during her term in office, as well as represent Job's Daughters for events for other Masonic associations throughout the state.

Grand Bethel of California fills up hotels in Visalia, as well bringing some serious shoppers with money to spend. The event translates to hundreds of thousands of dollars to the local community every year.

Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick founded the International Order of Job's Daughters in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1920. The purpose of the Order is to band together young women with Masonic relationship for character building through moral and spiritual development by teaching a greater reverence for God and the Holy Scriptures; loyalty to the flag and the country for which it stands, and respect for parents and guardians, as well as to promote friendship among young women. It gives members the foundation on which to build the qualities needed to become contributing partners of society through personal growth.

Membership enables girls to learn leadership skills, organizational methods, and the importance of fulfilling individual responsibilities within a group. By planning their own activities, the members have fun doing what they want to do and at the same time create lasting friendships.

Job's Daughters combines the energy and adventure of teen-age years with the lasting values of concern for others. Its activities provide opportunities for young women to develop confidence, good character, life-long friendships, moral and spiritual values, and leadership abilities -- and to have a lot of fun along the way. All adults directly involved with the members are required to attend a Certified Adult Volunteer program, then are given a criminal background check through their International Chapter known as Supreme Council.

Job's Daughters is always seeking to improve their membership. If you have an interest in becoming a member, visit website www.caiojd.org or contact Grand Secretary Charlotte Keel, 303 W. Lincoln Ave. Suite 210, Anaheim, CA 92805 or by calling (714) 535-4575.

Lemoore Chapter of Job's Daughters International Bethel No. 288 Wins 1st Place in Ritual Competition

At Grand Bethel of California held in Visalia's Convention Center on June 25 through June 28, 2015, the Lemoore Chapter of Job's Daughters International Bethel No. 288, won 1st place in Ritual competition called "Messenger Team".
This was Lemoore's first attempt at Messenger Team competition. Lemoore's 5 member team from left to right: Miss JolieAnn Shimmon (10), Miss Keita Gain, PHQ (15), Miss Andrea Mattos PHQ (14), Miss Jordan Bush PHQ (16) and Miss Shannyn Martyn (12).
A lot of memory work, practice and dedication are required for this type of competition. The Messengers of Job competition this year had 43 entries from all over the state, competing in 2 divisions. It is one of the most highly prized honors that a member of Job's Daughters can achieve as a team during Grand Bethel.

Wine & Beer Tasting
At
Redwood Room
Totem Market & Gifts
BBQ & Deli
J&J Cellars - Kelsey See Canyon Vineyards
(559) 561-4463
45186 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers

Calendar

1st and 3rd Thursdays: Central Valley Tea Party Meetings, 6pm
819 West Visalia Road, Farmersville.

June 8 through August: Oil Paintings by Betty Berk
This is a one-woman exhibit at Cafe 225. There will be a reception at 1pm on Sunday, June 14.

Every Tuesday through July 28: Sierra View Farmers Market, 9am–Noon
Join us at Sierra View Medical Center East Parking Lot, 465 W. Putnam Ave. in Porterville, for the NEW Sierra View Farmers Market, in partnership with the Visalia Farmer's Market! Come enjoy fresh local produce harvested for the summer season. Shoppers can buy local tomatoes, cucumber, zucchini, stone fruit, berries, citrus, plant starts, olives, honey, grass fed beef and more! The first 50 people to visit the Sierra View Medical Center Booth will receive Healthy Bucks to spend at the Market! Plus, you can receive a $10 Market Match when using Cal Fresh EBT Benefits! In addition, the Tulare Kings Area Agency on Aging will be joining us on June 9 and will be distributing $20 gift certificates for the farmers market to seniors who qualify. Local producers or non-profits interested in joining the Sierra View Farmers Market can apply at www.visaliafarmersmarket.com

Every Tuesday in July: How to Become a Teacher, 5-6pm
The Central Valley is currently experiencing a severe teacher shortage. Brandman University has been working hard to help with this issue by offering free teacher job fairs, free substitute teacher job fairs and so on. Currently the Hanford campus of Brandman University, located at 325 Mall Dr. in Hanford, is offering special Information sessions during the month of July.

Through July 11: "New Artist/Old Soul" --Paintings by Anees Akhund.
At the Tulare Historical Museum's Heritage Art Gallery, 444 West Tulare Avenue in Tulare, Thursday--Saturday 10am to 4pm. $5 for Adults; $3 for Seniors 55+ & SoCal Automobile Club Members; $2 for Students; Free for Tulare City Historical Society Members and Children under 5. Admission to Heritage Art Gallery is free.

Through October 28: Free Fly Casting Instruction, 6-7pm
Kaweah Fly Fishers are offering fly casting lessons at Del Lago Park in Tulare every Wednesday evening until October 28. Rods and reels will be supplied or you may bring your own.

JULY

Throughout July: Independence from Hunger
July is HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH...Shop at the Visalia Grocery Outlet every day in July to provide food for our community! Items VRM needs will be highlighted in the aisles, or purchase a pre-made bag and drop it in the donation bin in the store! The Grocery Outlet is located at 2323 S Mooney Blvd. in Visalia. Want to get more involved? Man a VRM table at the GO on a Saturday or Sunday in July (3 hour shifts available). You and family or friends can donate your time and help spread the word about hunger awareness.

July 3: Tulare's 49th Annual Fireworks Spectacular, 6-10pm
Tulare County Fairgrounds, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Admission: $5 per person, 6 and under is free. No ice chests or alcohol beverages are allowed. For more information call 686-4707.

July 3: July 3rd Blast, beginning at 6pm
At Miller Brown Park, corner of Magnolia Street and Antelope Avenue in Woodlake. A Variety of food and drink vendors, including beer booth for adults, blood drive, music and free Kids Blast Zone. Free Admission.

July 3: Dinuba Independence Day Celebration, 7pm
Entertainment Plaza, 289 S. L St., Dinuba. Farmers Market, 5 p.m. Fireworks, 9pm. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Live entertainment featuring Midnight Run: The Sounds of Journey. Food and drink vendors available. No alcohol allowed on park premises.

July 3: Visalia Rawhide's Independence Day celebration, 7pm
At their North Giddings Street stadium in Visalia, the Rawhide vs Bakersfield Blaze. Fireworks following the game.

July 3: FREEDOM CELEBRATION, A Kosher Hot Dog Dinner & A Free Jewish Film, 7pm
$10 buys hot dogs, hummus, green bean salad, potato chips, fruited Jello mold, cookies & ice cream, plus home-made Challah, wine,jJuice & blessings. A big bag of buttons gets you $5 off the cost of the meal. The Film, "Angst," looks at the lives of three Jewish comedians (Deb Filler, Sandy Gutman, and Moshe Waldoks) whose parents are concentration camp survivors. The film focuses on the effect of this legacy on their lives and their particular brands of humor. The film includes interviews, glimpses into the subjects' personal lives & excerpts from stage performances. These elements are interwoven with commentaries by experts in Jewish humor, as well as psychologists who specialize in treating the syndromes suffered by some children of survivors. Dinner and the movie will be at Congregation Beit Shalom, 115 E. Paseo Avenue in Visalia. For more information call 559 308-1333 or visit beitshalomvisalia.com.

July 4: Exeter Celebration, 7am- 3pm
Pancake breakfast, 2-mile walk, 10k run and horseshoe tournament at Exeter City Park, Chestnut and E Streets. Fireworks at dusk at Lions Stadium. Free Admission.

July 4: Hanford "Proud to be an American" Starting at Noon
Earl F. Johnson Park - Brown Street and Grangeville Blvd.
Kids activities, car show, food booths and beer, live music, swimming at Hanford High School. Fireworks show at Hanford High School Neighbor Bowl at 9pm.

July 4: Lemoore July 4th Firecracker Fun Run, 6am
5k run and 3k walk, 6am check-in. Race starts at 8am at Lemoore City Park, Bush and Fox Streets. For information call 924-6767.

July 4: Fireworks Celebration, 5pm
Celebration begins at 5pm with fireworks starting at 9:15pm at Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino, Outdoor Pavilion, 17225 Jersey Avenue in Lemoore. Free admission. For more information call 924-7751.

July 4: Exeter 4th of July
Experience Exeter's "Small Town Charm" as we celebrate Independence Day. Activities in the Exeter City Park will include a 10K Run and Horseshoe Tournament. To sign up for the run or tournament call Exeter Community Services at 559-592-5262. Of course, no Fourth of July would be complete without fireworks! The Exeter Lion's Club invites you to come and enjoy their spectacular FREE fireworks show, beginning at dusk on July 4th at Lions Stadium on Rocky Hill Drive. Info: 559-592-2919

July 7: "Preparing for the Workforce," Noon to 1 pm
J.E.C. Offering Free Summer Workshops Porterville- The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center invites the public to attend their free, career development workshops being held at Porterville College throughout the summer. At Porterville College, 100 East College Avenue in Porterville, room LRC513. The workplace is changing; see what resources are available to help you succeed.

July 7-10: Christy Wood's Summer Horse Kamp.
Looking for something to keep the children busy during the day? Christy's Horse Kamp Level 1 includes instruction in leading and grooming, feeding and care, saddling and bridling, and riding. Level 2 includes lunging, obstacles and riding all 3 gaits. Both levels are taught by judge, instructor, trainer, champion and author Christy Wood at Wood 'N' Horse Training Stables, located at 42846 North Fork Drive in Three Rivers, CA. Call 559-561-4268 to register.

July 8: Concert in the Park 2015, 7:30-9pm
Bring chairs and blankets--but no alcohol--to Tulare Zumwalt Park to hear Bruthas of Anutha Mutha's Rock, Blues & R&B on the stage of the John Philip Souza Pavilion. FREE! For more information, please call the Tulare Parks and Recreation Department.

July 10: Concert in the Park 2015, 7pm
Listen to JJ Brown play Hanford Civic Park / Historic Courthouse Stage, 400 N. Douty St. in Hanford. This is a free event. For more information, contact the Hanford Parks and Recreation Department at 585-2525.

July 10: Concert in Springville Park, 7-9pm
Richard Frost & Marco

July 11: "Just Walk" With a Doc, 8-9am
The Healthy Visalia Committee working in partnership with Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Family HealthCare Network, Tulare County Medical Society and the Visalia Parks and Recreation Dept. continues its 2015 Visalia's "Just Walk" With a Doc walking program. The walks will take place at Blain Park, 3101 S. Court St., in Visalia.

Sound N Vision

Drum Rhythms of the World:
This class will utilize conga drums to te
rhythms used around the world.
Class dates: JULY 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 2
11:00am) *Drums will be provided. (ages 8-
Rodriguez (professional musician and instru

July 11: Women's Celebration, 10am-5:30pm
The Allensworth Volunteer Community Association, the Friends of Allensworth and the We Can Foundation invite you to attend our Women's Celebration. It will be held on Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Black historical township and park of Allensworth in Delano, California.

Jul 11: 5th annual Kids Day at Coe Park, 4:30-8pm
Come out and join us for the 5th annual Kids Day event at Coe Park,543 S. Douty St. in Hanford. Free for everyone. Call Graciela Davis at (559) 572-4435 for more information.

July 12: Hot Dog Festival & Craft Show, 10am-4pm
This annual event at the Three Rivers Museum supports the Three Rivers Volunteer Firefighters and the Museum. It runs from 10am to 4pm with demonstrations by Tulare County Fire, Cal Fire, and the National Park Service Fire. Lunch includes hot dogs with all the fixings, corn on the cob, and A&W root beer float. For more information: www.3rmuseum.org.

July 12: Vietnam Veteran Wall Car & Motorcycle Show, Noon-6pm

At Dinuba Memorial Hall, 249 South Alta Avenue. For more information call Joey (559) 859-7585 or Johnny (559) 250-2475

July 12: Martina McBride: The Everlasting Tour, 7:30-9:30pm
Martina McBride returns to the Visalia Fox Theatre! A Rainmaker Productions event benefitting VRM. Tickets available vrmhope.org/events

July 15: "CTE (Career and Technical Education) Career Readiness," 11:30am-12:30pm
J.E.C. Offering Free Summer Workshops Porterville- The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center invites the public to attend their free, career development workshops being held at Porterville College throughout the summer. At Porterville College, 100 East College Avenue in Porterville, room LRC513. Learn about various Career and Technical Education courses being offered at Porterville College.

July 15: Concert in the Park 2015, 7:30-9pm
Bring chairs and blankets--but no alcohol--to Tulare Zumwalt Park to hear Tule British Brass Band's Traditional music on the stage of the John Philip Souza Pavilion. FREE! For more information, please call the Tulare Parks and Recreation Department.

July 18: 16th Annual Woodlake Car and Bike Show, from 7am
The 16th Annual Car and Bike Show will take place in the city's Miller-Brown Park. Entries start rolling in at 7am. Awards scheduled for 2pm.

July 18: Christmas in July, 10am-4pm
In the Visalia Convention Center's Charter Oak Ballroom. Entrance Tickets $2. Tricky Tray Tickets $1.Tickets can be purchased at the door. Current military and immediate family FREE. Free refreshments. Tricky Tray drawings at 3pm. Need not be present to win.

n Youth Music & Art Exploration

each traditional drum

3, 27, 29, 31 (10:00-
17) instructor: Carlos
ctor)

Electric Guitar Jam Basics:
This class teaches basic electric guitar and popular riffs. Students will be encouraged to improvise on the instrument and play together.

Class dates: JULY 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 31 (11:30-12:30pm) *Instruments and amps will be provided. (ages 8-17) instructor: Carlos Rodriguez (professional musician and instructor)

July 18: Bowling for PADS, 12-3pm
At AMF Visalia Lanes, 1740 West Caldwell in Visalia. Donation is $125 for a five-person team. All ages are allowed. All proceeds go to Porterville Adult Day Services.

July 19: 7th Annual Food Fight AGAINST Hunger, 3-6pm
Join the California Restaurant Association as they host the 7th Annual Food Fight AGAINST Hunger! All proceeds benefit the Visalia Rescue Mission. PRIZES! DELICIOUS food from local restaurants! LIVE MUSIC! COOKING DEMO by The Vintage Press' David Vartanian! AMATEUR CHEFS COMPETING FOR TOP HONORS in the cooking competitions! Must be 21 to attend. Visit www.vrmhope.org/events for ticket information.

July 21: "Social Media Marketing," 5:30- 6:30pm
J.E.C. Offering Free Summer Workshops Porterville- The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center invites the public to attend their free, career development workshops being held at Porterville College throughout the summer. At Porterville College, 100 East College Avenue in Porterville, room LRC513. Learn how to use social media to promote your large or small business; what platforms should you use and how.

July 23: "CTE (Career and Technical Education) Career Readiness," 2:30-3:30pm
J.E.C. Offering Free Summer Workshops Porterville- The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center invites the public to attend their free, career development workshops being held at Porterville College throughout the summer. At Porterville College, 100 East College Avenue in Porterville, room LRC513. The J.E.C. Center at Porterville College provides personalized services and programs. Whether you need help choosing major, exploring careers, starting your own business, or developing a resume, J.E.C. staff is here to help you make the necessary preparations to achieve your goals and to ensure a successful transition from academic life to the working world.

July 22: Labor Law Compliance Series, 7-10am.
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with Pacific Employers, will present the state-mandated Supervisors' Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Seminar & Workshop at the Lamp Liter Inn. Registration & Breakfast 7:30-8 am; Seminar 8-10am. Reservations required. For more information call the Chamber, 734-5876.

July 24: Concert in Springville Park, 7-9pm
The Beach Band

July 24-27: Wilderness Trip: Alta Peak.
Location: Lodgepole. Duration: 4 days. To register, call the Sequoia Field Institute at 559-565-4251.

July 25: 2nd Annual Peter Murphy Classic
King of the West 410, Sprint Car Series, USAC West Coast 360 Sprints and Western RaceSaver Sprints will be held at Thunderbowl Raceway at Tulare Fairgrounds. For information, visit www.thunderbowlraceway.com.

July 25-27: Dark Sky Festival
Throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Programs and activities include: Meet an Astronaut, Constellation Tours, Telescope Viewing, Special Film Viewing, Guest Speakers, Photography, Storytelling, Model Rocket Building, Home Lighting Demos and more. For more information, visit www.sequoiahistory.org/darksky

July 27: Pizza with a Purpose, 5-9pm
Enjoy a great meal & support a great cause! Every #lastmonday of the month in 2015. The Planing Mill will donate a portion of the evening's revenue to the VRM!

July 29: Miss Exeter Informational Meeting, 5:30pm
Do you know a young lady who is interested in participating in the 2015 Miss Exeter Scholarship Program, but has questions about what that entails? Invite her and her parents to attend the Information Only" meeting on Wed., July 29th at 5:30pm at the Chamber..

July 29: Concert in the Park 2015, 7:30-9pm
Bring chairs and blankets--but no alcohol--to Tulare Zumwalt Park to hear Richard Frost, Marco Rodriguez & Billy's Country music on the stage of the John Philip Souza Pavilion. FREE! For more information, please call the Tulare Parks and Recreation Department.

July 30: KJUG Free Summer Concert--"Brothers Osborne," 7pm
KJUG Free Summer Concert in Exeter City Park at 7 pm on Wednesday, July 15th featuring "Brothers Osborne". Chamber member sponsors are Monarch Ford, Culligan Water Conditioning & the City of Exeter. For more information visit www.KJUG.com.

July 31: Devon Mathis Town Hall Meeting, 5:30
Join Devon Mathis at his next town hall in Visalia on July 31st at 5:30 at the Visalia Veterans Memorial Building 609 W. Center Avenue.

July 31: Concert in the Park 2015, 7pm
Listen to Conjunto Sagrado play Hanford Civic Park / Historic Courthouse Stage, 400 N. Douty St. in Hanford. This is a free event. For more information, contact the Hanford Parks and Recreation Department at 585-2525.

AUGUST

August 7: The 27th Annual Tommy Elliott Memorial Golf Classic, 7am-3pm
Come join us for a day of golf, goodies, and giving during the 27th Annual Tommy Elliott Memorial Golf Classic on Friday, August 7, 2015 at the Visalia Country Club. Proceeds will go to funding Delivering Our Future project which will create a state-of-the art birthing center at the Kaweah Delta Medical Center. Registration 9am. Shotgun start 2:30pm. Awards Ceremony, Silent Auction, BBQ. $175.00 per golfer Sponsorships available. For more information call Deborah Volosin Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation (559) 624-2359.

August 7: Celebrant Singers 38th Anniversary Homecoming Concert, 7pm
An inspirational night at LJ Williams Theater hearing from Celebrants who've traveled the globe, sharing God's love where His light is dim and His voice is heard small. All seats are FREE and a love offering will be taken. Based in Visalia, the Celebrants come home only once a year to share and celebrate with their friends and partners…their family. After outreaches in Malta and Guatemala, they bring fresh reports of God's faithfulness and the results of sharing Christ's love with thousands throughout the world. THREE TEAMS – 30 singers and a 40 piece orchestra – are together for a spectacular musical celebration!

August 7: Concert in Springville Park, 7-9pm
Brad Wilson

August 8: "Just Walk" With a Doc, 8-9am
The Healthy Visalia Committee working in partnership with Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Family HealthCare Net-

Sports

Rawhide: Keeping A Consistent Offense

Stefan Barros

The Visalia Rawhide offense has been trying to keep a consistent approach this season and this has been a big reason for their success up to the All-Star break.

Jon Matthews, Rawhide hitting coach, attributes the offensive success to the work that's being done before the games.

"I try to tell the guys to have a structured routine during the day," he said. "Something that can raise their comfort level. Do their work before the games, so that they can use that same approach to take into the games. That way they don't have to change anything."

Matthews also attributes speed as another reason why the offense has been able to be so successful this season.

"We're just having a lot of guys with nice years so far," he said. "We can run; get the defense out of position. The guys always have a game plan at the plate."

Playing the offensive friendly California League, you might think that could change your approach as a hitting coach, but Matthews tries to keep things simple with his hitters.

"I try to tell the guys that the game, is the game, is the game," he said. "The game doesn't change, no matter where you go. I just want them to have a consistent approach at the plate, keep a calming influence. I try to tell them the right things, one of those things is to not change your approach just because the league is friendly to offenses."

Kevin Cron

With Matthews spending his first season in Visalia and a new season with a whole new group of players, there have been some surprises, but they have been positives for the most part, he said.

"We started off the season ultra-hot," he added. "The hitters have really limited the depth of the rollercoaster to their seasons. They haven't gotten too low when they've struggled. They've put in the work and really are an unbelievable group of guys."

For an offense to be as hot as it has been thus far, there has to be some standouts. According to Matthews there quite a few players that have been swinging the bat well.

"Some of the guys are Jamie Westbrook, who also looked really good in spring training, Daniel Palka and Kevin Cron. Cron skipped Low-A ball and has handled the adjustment very well," Matthews said.

Cron has been one of the best hitters for the Rawhide so far this season. The first basemen talked a little bit about his first full season in professional baseball, after being drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2014 out of Texas Christian University.

"My dad coached in pro ball, so I knew a little bit of what to expect," he said. "I just try to have an approach at the plate, and don't stray from that approach. I just have to stay true to who I am as a player and don't do too much at the plate."

Cron also talked about some of the goals he has set for himself, both short term and long term.

"As a player, you have to assess who you are from a statistical standpoint, and that's what I'm doing; just sticking to who I am as a player," he said. "I got hot coming into this year, I just have to be able to stick to it and work to keep with my approach."

Coming from the college game, Cron does see differences with it and the pro game, but admits that he does like the professional style of game a little better.

"The game is played differently," he said. "There is more small-ball offense in college and that wasn't what I did best and I struggled. I struggled in college, but I believe I'm better for it now as a hitter."

Cron talked about some aspects of his game that he feels he needs to work on, and he believes it is all between the ears.

"I feel I need to improve on the mental side of the game," he said. "The next step is to stick to an approach, don't slack on work and continue to think the same thing at the plate. Just stay consistent."

On the other end of the spectrum, Cron discussed some aspects of his game that he is happy with so far this season.

"I'm getting better in my work before the games," he said. "I make a conscious effort in practice and let that carry over. I used to go through the motions in pre-game, but I take pride in that work now. I try to take 100 swings in batting practice."

With the California League being famous for its friendly offense, Cron naturally was encouraged to find out he was heading there, but in the end it still is professional level competition.

"It really is a hitter's league, and I was excited when I found out I was coming here, because the fields are small, but there still is good pitching here and you still have to have the power to hit the ball out of the park," he said.

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THE Lifestyle Center

A Division of Kaweah Delta Health Care District

For more information on The Lifestyle Center, or to schedule a private tour please call (559) 624-3400

TheLifestyleCenter.org

Youth Coed Basketball Camp Coming to West Hills College Lemoore in July

West Hills College Lemoore will host the Golden Eagle Basketball camp in July, a co-ed basketball camp for elementary and high school aged students, as part of an effort to reach out to young athletes in the area.

Registration is now open for both sessions of the camp, which is for students from 4th to 12th grades.

"The camp will focus on passing, dribbling and shooting and will improve the fundamental skills of the young athletic stars of the Valley," said Fidela Byars, WHCL athletic department secretary.

A youth camp will be held from July 13 to July 16 for 4th to 8th graders. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., with a registration cost of $75.

The high school session, for 9th to 12th grade students, will run from July 14 to July 16 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and costs $60.

Each camp participant will receive a free t-shirt.

The coaching staff for the event will include current members of the WHCL women's basketball team and WHCL coaches.

To register, contact Coach Andrea Picchi at andreapicchi@whccd.edu. Walk-up registration will also be available on the first day of each camp.

For more information and to register, email Fidela Byars at fidelabyars@whccd.edu or call 559-925-3313.

Health

Scientists Decipher the Tick-Tock of Biological Clocks

Researchers at the University of California, Merced, have taken another step toward unlocking the mysteries of the biological clock.

In a study published June 25 in Science Express — and soon to appear in print in the prestigious journal Science — a team led by UC Merced Professor Andy LiWang shows how the highly unusual movements of a single protein drives the shift from nighttime to daytime biological functions in cyanobacteria.

LiWang — a faculty member with the School of Natural Sciences and Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI) — studies circadian clocks, which regulate biological activities in roughly 24-hour rhythms, at an atomic scale.

"The circadian clock drives powerful rhythms of rest and activity," LiWang said. "Normally, your internal clock is synchronized with local time. At night, you feel tired, and in the morning, you feel ready to take on the world. You get jet lag when your clock — and therefore physiology and metabolism — are out of sync with your environment."

Cyanobacteria makes for a good test subject, LiWang said, because of its simplicity and because the three proteins driving its timekeeping system — KaiA, KaiB and KaiC — can be reassembled in a test tube, away from the complexity of live cells, and tick for days and weeks on a lab bench.

The Science study, which builds on LiWang's previous research, shows that the KaiB protein flips between two distinct three-dimensional folds, which is a rare ability for proteins. When it switches folds, it binds KaiC and captures KaiA, initiating a transition of the circadian cycle and providing the link that joins the timekeeping and signaling functions of the bacteria's oscillator.

UC Merced Professor Andy LiWang

As a photosynthesizing organism, cyanobacteria need the sun to perform life functions. Signals from the clock prepare cyanobacteria for sunrise every day. The highly unusual behavior of KaiB metamorphosis plays an essential role in this regard, LiWang said.

"If you mix cyanobacterial clock proteins in a test tube with an energy source, the test tube literally starts ticking," LiWang said. "You can tell time by it. How do these clocks manage to go at a 24-hour pace?"

The team responsible for beginning to answer those questions included LiWang, UC Merced postdoc Yong-Gang Chang and graduate student Roger Tseng, and researchers from UC San Diego, UC Davis and the University of Chicago.

LiWang has received more than $2 million in grants from the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army and the National Institutes of Health to continue building a body of knowledge about how circadian clocks tick. Thousands of soldiers are deployed all over the world, and the military is interested in minimizing health problems related to jet lag and maximizing performance.

"They appreciate the long-term implications of what we are doing," said LiWang, whose lab is housed at the Castle Airport Aviation and Development Center in Atwater.

He also credited much of his success to the support of the administration at UC Merced and in the School of Natural Sciences. For example, the school recently began funding the support and maintenance of a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer that was originally purchased by Andy and Patricia LiWang and maintained by the couple for years using their startup funds and grants.

LiWang's publication in Science marks the first time the prestigious journal has published original research with a faculty member from the UC Merced School of Natural Sciences as corresponding author.

"Professor LiWang's publication in such a high-impact, world-renowned journal confirms his place as a leader in the field and puts UC Merced firmly on the map as a world-class research institution," HSRI Executive Director Trevor Hirst said. "These papers also attract increased funding from federal agencies, foundations and donors, which are essential to the continued growth of UC Merced and HSRI."

UC Merced opened Sept. 5, 2005, as the newest campus in the University of California system and the first American research university of the 21st century. Situated near Yosemite National Park, the campus significantly expands access to the UC system for students throughout the state, with a special mission to increase college-going rates among students in the San Joaquin Valley. It also serves as a major base of advanced research, a model of sustainable design and construction, and a stimulus to economic growth and diversification throughout the region.

Sequoia Prompt Care Unveils Website Feature Allowing Patients to View Wait Times

Sequoia Prompt Care, a division of Kaweah Delta Health Care District, has a new website feature that allows prospective patients to see which of its two locations has the shortest wait time.

"This tool is all about helping our patients save time. We are doing our best to make sure our patients don't have to sit around waiting when they aren't feeling well," said John Leal, nurse manager of Sequoia Prompt Care.

To view wait times for a room at the two Sequoia Prompt Cares in Visalia, visit http://sequoiapromptcare.org.

Prospective patients can then choose to avoid the waiting room at the Sequoia Prompt Care with the shortest wait by clicking above the time box on the link called "Get a Quick Pass."

Sequoia Prompt Care provides care for general illnesses and offers everything from physicals to workers' compensation care.

It also allows patients to skip the waiting room with Quick Pass online or by calling 624-4810. They can wait at home or at the office and will receive a call when an exam room is ready.

Patients are seen by a physician, a physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner. Walk-in patients are welcome. Cash and most insurance are accepted.

Sequoia Prompt Cares is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. They are located at:

- 820 W. Akers St., Suite 100 (inside Sequoia Medical Plaza at Akers Street and Cypress Avenue).
- 1110 S. Ben Maddox Way, Suite B.

Established in 1963, Kaweah Delta Health Care District is a 581-bed health care district with 3,900 employees Central Valley residents.

It is the only level III trauma center serving Tulare and Kings counties. For more information, visit www.kaweahdelta.org.

RECYCLE - IT'S HEALTHY AND THIS IS THE HEALTH PAGE

One of the main focal points of the convention center lobby, the staircase, is undergoing a new look along with the entire lobby area.

Convention

Continued from p. 17

planted, while keeping trees for shading.

"It will have a new look and feel as you walk up to the building," Roeben said.

And, it will make the courtyard more accessible as part of the venue.

The project has a completion target date of the end of August.

Roeben said the facility is really a combined convention center and community center, with its primary purpose to bring out-of-town meetings in and its secondary purpose to accommodate the local community.

"It's a constant balancing act," he said.

The convention center is available 360 days a year and in some part of the center there is almost always something going on.

But the desire is for bigger draws of people who will come stay, eat and shop in Visalia and the nearby communities.

The main competition comes from Fresno and Bakersfield.

Visalia is an easy drive from most California locations and a good centerpiece between the south and the north.

There is little to draw those who come to attend meetings away from those meetings, like there might be in Las Vegas or Anaheim, and employers like that, Roeben said. It is a safe area with a lot of restaurants and shops close by. And a day outing to Sequoia or Kings Canyon is easily available.

Plus, it is a cost-effective area with many hotels. Having the Marriott next door is an added bonus, as the Marriott chain is the most requested by those booking conventions throughout the US, he said.

"The remodel of the convention center is a great regional project that goes far beyond just the city," said Eric Coyne, Tulare County Tourism manager and Tulare County film commissioner.

"To host a large, multi-day event, that is a regional draw," he said. "It will springboard to day trips and other hotels (outside the city)."

Indeed, the Transient Occupancy Tax is up in the county during the last fiscal year, Coyne said.

With that and the convention center remodel come more and new investors in the community's hotel industry.

This will be discussed in the next edition of the Valley Voice.

Clover House

Continued from p. 17

women and their children, were either going to purchase or rent the house with the intent to remodel it, but those didn't pan out in the long run either.

The Kirkseys and Clover spent much time talking about the house and its history.

When the Kirkseys purchased the home, Clover, a contractor by profession, along with the couple's son, did most of the work themselves and restored everything possible. The foundation is the original stone. Much of the wood structure is original and, in fact, bears the Exeter Lumber name, along with that of Kirkman on it. There is original wood flooring, although carpet has been laid in the bedrooms for comfort. Some of the kitchen and much of the dining area cabinetry are original.

The Kirkseys consulted everyone they could find in bringing the house back to its original condition. Tricia Kirksey also searched--and continues to do so--for local antiques furnishings for the home and yards.

One puzzlement though is a name or word written on the front of the home. It appears to say "COSBLETON," and the Kirkseys have not been able to find out the meaning behind it. And while it has been painted, it still stands out and they continue to seek help with this issue.

While much of the Clover House is available to the public when open for an event, there are a few rooms which the Kirksey family keeps private. There are shared rooms including the living room and kitchen, which the Kirkseys use, but may also be available during an event. And there are many rooms designed for special events, mostly weddings.

The Bride's Room is on the second floor with a screened porch attached so the bride and her court can see into the backyard, where a wedding would be held. The Groom's Room is downstairs with a big-screen television and men's bathroom.

While there were no zoning changes, some changes needed to be made to bring it compliant with current laws, including providing a small parking lot with disability parking.

The home and estate can accommodate a wedding of 200 or more, Trisha Kirksey said. Parking is available in the lot, on the street and in a city lot around the corner.

"Wes had a vision for this house," she said. "He wanted it brought back to its historic state and he wanted to have people come and see it."

It has been brought back and people are coming to see it.

For more information on the Clover House, visit www.thecloverhouseexeterca.com.

The Bride's Room is available during weddings for the bride and her court and has an attached screened balcony that overlooks